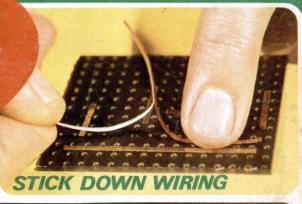
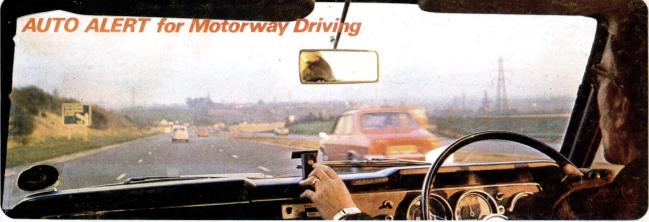
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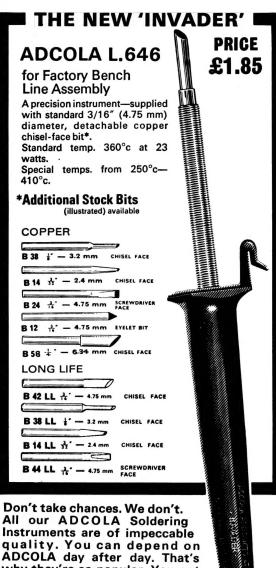








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220/240v. 50 cycle solenoid with laminated core so very silent in operation. Closes 4 circuits each rated at 10 amps. Extremely well made by a German Electrical Company.

Overall size 21 × 2 × 2 in.



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Double Leaf Contact. Very slight pressure clos both contacts. 6)
each, 60p doz. Plastic push
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2 pole, 2 way—4 pole, 2 way—3 pole, 3 way—4 pole, 3 way—2 pole, 4 way—2 pole 6 way—1 pole, 12 way. All at 18p each, £1.80 dozen, your assortment.

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Double pole with neon let into side so luminous in dark, ideal for dark room light or for use with waterproof element, new plastic case 30p each. 3 heat model 40p.



CAR ELECTRIC PLUG Fits in place of cigarette lighter.
Useful method for making a
quick connection into the car
electrical system. 38p each or 10 for \$3.42.



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Mini Immersion Heater, 350w.
200/240v. Bolls full cup in about
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lamp holder. Have at bedside/
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also available same price. Jug
heater \$1.50 plus p. & p. 14p.

SNAP ACTION SLIDE SWITCH Rated 5a. 240v. Made by Arrow. Type fitted in the handles of electric drills. vacuums, etc. 5p each, 10 for 45p.



NUMICATOR TUBES For digital instruments, timers. clocks, etc. Hi-vac Price \$1.45 each, 10 for \$13.

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7-0076 copper cores, each core P.V.C. insulated and of different colour. P.V.C. covered overall and approx. 3/16in. thick. Price 20p per yard.



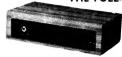
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Almost zero resistant in sun-light increases to 10 K Ohms resin sealed. Size approx. In. dia. by fin. thick. Rated at 500 MW, wire ended. 43p with circuit.

0-8 AMMETER

2in. square full vision for flush mounting. Moving iron instrument. Ideal for charger. Price 43p each 10 for \$3.90.

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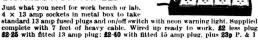


4 4 4 4

The amplifier sensation of the year You will be amazed at the fullness of reproduction and at the added qualities your records or tuner will reproduce. Built into metal cabinet elegantly styled in simulated teak finished an integrated solid state circuit with an output power of 6 watts R.M.S. split over the two channels. The amplifier is ideal for use with normal pick-ups and tuners, it has a double wound mains transformer and ganged volume and tone controls—also switching for Mono to Stereo, tuner or pick-up. Other controls include "treble lift and cut". "balance" and separate mains on/off switch.

UNREPEATABLE PRICE is \$29 plus 38p post and invarance.

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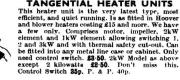




THIS MONTHS SNIP

Smiths 24 hour 2on/2off Time switch this is the popular model, as used in the Autoset and Morphy Richards time switches. Only needs a case and an output socket, 230y 50 cycles. Contacts switch up to 13 amps. Paics 490,75 Price £2.75p

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HOUR MINUTE TIMER

Made by famous Smiths company, these have a large clear dial, size 44×34, which can be set in minutes up to 1 hour. After preset period the bell rings. Ideal for processing, a memory logger or, by adding simple lever, would operate micro-switch \$1:16.



Easiest way to fault find—traces signal from aerial to speaker—when signal stops you've found the fault. Use it on Radio, TV, amplifier, anything—comfault. Use it on Kadio, 1v, amplifier, anything—com-plete kit comprises two special transistors and all parts including probe tube and crystal earpiece. £2—twin stethoset instead of earpiece 75p extra post and ins. 20p.



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end S.A.E. today for list of 70 constructor projects—instruments—larms—counters—locks—radios, etc., etc.

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TYPE 25 RELAYS

TYPE 25 RELAYS
These are miniature relays. Size approx. 1 à th inch high × 14* wide × 4* deep. 4 change over silver/gold contacts. Contact rating lamp 100v D.C. Fitted with a plastic cover. Coil operates approx. 250 Mw D.C. available with the following coils:

28 ohm for 47-75v 45 ohm for 10v-15v 530 ohm for 15v-65v 530 ohm for 17v-36v 1250 ohm for 27v-44v 2500 ohm for 31v-65v 5800 ohm for 17v-36v 1250 ohm for 17v-44v 1250 ohm for 18v-45v 1250 ohm for 17v-44v 1250 ohm for 18v-45v 1250 oh

DRIVER ALERT WAA-WAA PEDAL RAIN SENSOR

and other features

To receive these kits promptly send approximate quoted price and we will refund any change.

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21 × 31	 22p	 16p
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331 × 5	 27p	 270
17 × 21	 75p	 571
17 × 3½	 100p	 75p
17 × 5 (plain)	 _	 75p
17 × 3 ² (plain)	 -	 521
17 × 21 (plain)	 	 37±
21 × 5 (plain)	 	 17
21 × 31 (plain)	 _	 15p
Pin intersection tool	 47 lp	 471
Spot face cutter	 371p	 374
Pkt. 50 pins	 20p	 20p

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FLUORESCENT CONTROL KITS
Bach kit comprises seven items—Choke, 2 tube
ends, starter, holder and 2 tube clips, with wiring
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or the new "Grolux" tubes for fish tanks and
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resin filled. Kit A—15-20 vs. £1. Kit B=30-40 w
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Kit F for 8tt. 125 w. tube £1.75. Kit MF1 is for
6in., 9in. and 12in. ministure tubes £1. Kit MF2
for 2lin. 13 w. ministure tubes £1. Kit MF2
for 2lin. 13 w. ministure tubes £1. Postage on
Kits A and B 23p for one or two kits then 23p for
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first kit then 18p for each kit ordered. Kit F 33p
than 23p for each kit ordered. Kit F 18p
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shop, 2ft. wide × 14in. high × 5in. deep. This is
an illuminated box sign made from sheet metal
hammer finish enamel with a clear plastic window.
You simply have your message printed or written

an illuminated box sign made from sheet metal hammer finish ename with a clear plastic window. You simply have your message printed or written on poster board or thick card. (Or use stick down letters available at most stationers). You will then have a box sign normally costing anything between £10-£15. Illumination is by a 2ft. fluorescent tube with control gear enclosed. Message card can be changed quite easily from hinged top back. Price £3 each, plus £5p post, etc. Motivated Illuminated Box Sign. As previous item but with geared motor moving the message making it change eight times a minute. Very attention arresting. To use this for your own messages you would have to have each sign written on card then cut this up in strips which could be glued to the one supplied with the box sign. Price £4.50, plus 65p post and service.

Geared Motor with take off socket. The gear train is driven by normal type induction motor and gives a final speed of 6 r.p.m. The motor is mounted behind a chrome plate through which the take off drive protrudes and was originally intended to drive a spit for cooking, is also ideal for driving models or for driving a colour changing disc for the local dance hall, discotheque, etc. Really well made assembly, Price £1.75 plus 25p post etc.



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REMOTE TEMPERATURE
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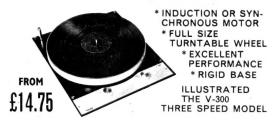
PACKAGE DEAL. B.S.R. autochanger C129 fitted stereo cart., two speakers in cabs. (above), amplifier (above). All for £21 (carr. £1:50) All necessary audio plugs and leads supplied

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RELAXATRON is basically a
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Gross weight 2 lb. ... Gross weight 5 lb. ...

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Unrepeatable Offer !!!! Surplus VEROBOARDS, $3\frac{3}{4}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}'' \times \cdot 15''$ Only 10p each or £1.00 per dozen

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Sub-miniature types	Miniature types		5·6 μF	35	volts	
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0·07 μF 20 volt	0 · 047μF 20	volts	15 μF	35	volts	
0·1 μF 20 volt	. 0.068µF 35	volts	18 μF	35	volts	
0·1 μF 50 volt	s 0·12 μF 35	volts	22 μF	15	volts	
0·1 μF 20 volt 0·1 μF 50 volt 0·18 μF 20 volt		volts	27 μF	120	volts	
0·33 μF 35 volt	s 0 22 μF 50	volts	56 μF	15	volts	
0 · 47 μF 35 volt	s 0.47 µF 50	volts	56 μF	20	volts	
0.68 µF 20 volt	s 0.68 μF 35	volts	150 μF	6	volts	
1.0 uF 15 volt	s 0.68 µF 50	volts				
2·2 μF 3 volt 2·7 μF 15 volt 2·7 μF 35 volt 3·0 μF 12 volt	s 10 μF 35	volts	Standard			
2·7 μF 15 volt	s IO μF 75	volts	6.8 µF	50	volts	
2.7 µF 35 volt	s I.8 µF 20	volts	7·5 μF	20	volts	
3·0 μF 12 volt	s 2·2 μF 20	volts	8·2 μF	150	voits	
10·0 μF 1·5 vo	ts 2.7 µF 50	volts	12 μF	35	volts	
	3 μF 12	volts	12 μF	50	volts	
	3·3 µF 15	volts	39 μF	20	volts	
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An aerosol spray providing a convenient means of producing any number of copies of a printed circuit both simply and

Method: Spray copper laminate board with light-sensitive spray. Cover with transparent film upon which circuit has been drawn. Expose to light. (No need to use ultra-violet.) Spray with developer, rinse and etch in normal manner.

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BUDGET HIGH-FIDELITY STEREO SYSTEMS





PREMIER STEREO SYSTEM "ONE" Consists of the new Premier 800 all transistor stereo amplifier, Garrard 2025 T/C auto manual record player unit fitted stereo mono ceramic cartridge with diamond stylus and mounted in teak finish plinth with perspex cover and two matching teak finish loud-speaker systems. Absolutely complete and supplied ready to plug in and play, 800 amplifier has an output of 5 watts per channel with inputs for ceramic and magnetic plok-up, tape and tuner also tape output socket and headphone socket. Ontolic: Bass, Treble, Volume, Balance, Selector, Power on/off. Mono/Stereo switch. Stereo Headphone socket. Black leatherette cabinet with aluminium front panel. Size: 124° × 63° × 23°. (Amplifier available separately if required \$16.25. Carr. 40p).

PREMIER STE STEREO above but with Garrard SP25 MK III and mag-netic cartridge netic cartridge. ONLY \$48. Carr. £1.75.

ONLY

PREMIER STEREO SYSTEM "THREE". This consists of KLINGER KC993 stereo amplifier giving 6 watts rms per channel with Bass, Treble, Volume and Balance Controls. Inputs for Magnetic and ceramic pick-up, tuner, tape in and out. Stereo earphone socket. Garrard SP25 Mk. III in teak finish plinth with cover and fitted Sonotone 9TAHOD diamond stereo cartridge. A pair of HMF Speakers size 16½ x 10½ x 9° fitted EMI units complete the matching system. ONLY £57.75. Carr. £1.75.

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STEREO HEADPHONES

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ready wired in teak plinth with cover Carriage and Insurance 50p extra any

SP25 MKIII SPECIAL!



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PLAYER FITTED
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GOLDRING 800 MAGNETIC STEREO CARTRIDGE as available.
COMPLETE IN TEAK
PLINTH WITH RIGID
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Designed to the highest possible standard. Fitted 2\frac{1}{2}\text{in speaker units with soft padded ear muffs. Adjustable headband. 8 ohms impedance. Co plete with 6ft lead and itereo jack plug.

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Fitted two 2½in tweeters and crossover network. Impedance 8 or 15 ohm. Handling capacity 10W. Brand new.

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NEW LOW COST PREMIER 800 STEREO AMPLIFIER



A truly high quality stereo amplifier—compare the specification, compare the price. Output: 5 watts per channel. Frequency response: 30-20,000 Hz = 2 db. Distortion: 1% Output Impedance 8 ohms non. Inputs equalised to R.I.A.A. Magnetic 4mv. Ceramic 100mv. Tuner 100mv. Tape 100mv. Tape out 150mv. Din sockets for inputs and outputs. Stereo headphone socket. Attractive slim line design black leatherette cabinet with aluminium front panel. Size 12½° x 6½° x

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WELLER "EXPERT" SOLDER GUN. Saves time and simplifies soldering in the home and service dept. Two position trigger gives instant dual heat. 100/140 #4.25 P&P apwatt. 240 volt A.C.



"Marksman" Soldering Iron. Lightweight & pencil bit. Ideal for regular bench use and around the home. 25 watts. 240 volt A.C. \$1.50 P & P 15p

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(60 min.) 37p \$10r C60 C90 (90 min.) 62p 3 for £1.80 C120 (120 min.) 87p stor P. & P. 5p.

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FREE CASSETTE HEAD CLEANER with every 10 cassettes purchased.

All cassettes can be supplied with library cases at 3p. extra each

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SPECIALLY MANUFACTURED IN U.S.A. FROM EXTRA STRONG PRE-STRETCHED MATERIAL. THE QUALITY IS UNEQUALLED. TENSILISED to ensure the most permanent base. Highly resistant to break age, moisture, heat, cold or humidity. High polished splice tree finish. Smooth output throughout the entire audio range. Double wrapped-attractively boxed.

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Sinclair Q16/Micromatic

Q16 High fidelity loudspeaker

The Q16 employs the well proven acoustic principles specially developed by Sinclair in which a special driver assembly is meticulously matched to the characteristics of the uniquely designed cabinet. In reviewing this exclusive Sinclair design, technical journals have justly compared the Q16 with much more expensive loudspeakers. Its shape enables the Q16 to be positioned and matched to its environment to much better effect than is the case with conventionally styled enclosures. A solid teak surround with a special all-over cellular foam front is used as much for appearance as its ability to pass all audio frequencies without loss.

This elegantly designed shelf mounting speaker brings genuine high fidelity within reach of every music lover.

Specifications:

Construction: Special sealed seamless sound or pressure chamber with internal baffle.

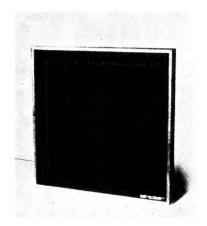
Loading: up to 14 watts RMS. **Input Impedance:** 8 ohms.

Frequency response: From 60 to 16,000 Hz. confirmed by independently plotted B and K curve

Driver unit: Special high compliance unit having massive ceramic magnet of 11,000 gauss, aluminium speech coil and special cone suspension for excellent transient response.

Size and styling: $9\frac{3}{4}$ in. square on face x $4\frac{3}{4}$ in. deep with neat pedestal base. Black all over cellular foam front with natural solid teak surround.

Price £8.98.



Britain's smallest radio

Considerably smaller than an ordinary box of matches, this is a multi-stage AM receiver brilliantly designed to provide remarkable standards of selectivity, power and quality for its size. Powerful AGC counteracts fading from distant stations; bandspread at higher, frequencies makes reception of Radio 1 easy. The plug-in magnetic earpiece provided, matches the Micromatic's output to give wonderful standards of reproduction. Everything including the special ferrite rod aerial and batteries is contained within the minute attractively designed case. Whether you build a Micromatic kit or buy this amazing receiver ready built and tested, you will find it as easy to take with you as your wrist watch, and dependable under the severest listening conditions.

Specifications:

Size: $36 \times 33 \times 13$ mm (1.8 x 1.3 x 0.5 in.) Weight: including batteries, 28.4 gm

Case: Black plastic with anodised aluminium front panel and spun aluminium dial.

Tuning: medium wave band with bandspread at higher frequencies (550 to 1.600 KHz).

Earpiece: Magnetic type.

On/off switching: By inserting and withdrawing earpiece plug.

Kit in pack with earpiece, case, instructions and solder £2.48.

Ready built, tested and guaranteed, with earpiece £2.98.

Two Mallory Mercury batteries type RM675 required from radio shops, chemists, etc.



Sinclair Radionics Ltd., London Rd, St. Ive	25
Huntingdonshire PE17 4HJ.	
Telephone St. Ives (048 06) 4311	

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Project 605 the new simple way to assemble Sinclair high fidelity modules Sinclair Project 605 Amplifier Sinclair Project 605 Amplifier Solution of the street of the s



For several years now you have been able to assemble your own high fidelity system to world beating standards using Sinclair modules. We have progressively improved these technically but hitherto the method of assembly at your end has remained the same – there has been no alternative to a soldering iron. Now for those who prefer not to solder, there is an alternative – Project 605.

In one neat package you can now obtain the four basic Project 60 modules plus a fifth completely new one — Masterlink — which contains all the input sockets and output components you previously bought separately. Also in the Project 605 pack are all the inter-connecting leads, cut to length and fitted at each end with plugs which clip straight onto the modules, eliminating soldering completely. The pack contains everything you need to build a complete 30 watt stereo amplifier together with a clear well illustrated Instruction Book. All you have to do is to arrange your modules in the plinth or case of your choice and then clip them together — the work of a few minutes.

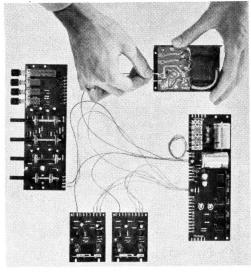
Your hi-fi system will, as we said, match the finest in the world and you can add to it at any time to increase power or extend the facilities. For example a superb stereo FM Tuner unit is obtainable for only £25.

Guarante

If within 3 months of purchasing Project 805 directly from us, you are dissatisfied with it, we will refund your money at once. Each module is guaranteed to work perfectly and should any defect arise in normal use we will service it at once and without any cost to you whatsoever provided that it is returned to us within 2 years of the purchase date. There will be a small charge for service thereafter. No charge for postage by surface mail, Air-mail charged at cost.



Sinclair Radionics Ltd., London Road., St. Ives, Huntingdonshire PE17 4HJ. Telephone: St. Ives (04806) 4311



Specifications

Output – 30 watts music power (10 watts per channel R.M.S. into 3 Ω).

Inputs – Mag. P.U. – 3mV correct to R.I.A.A. curve 20–25,000 Hz \pm 1dB. Ceramic pick-up – 50mV. Radio – 50 to 150mV. |Aux. adjustable between 3mV. and 3V.

Signal to noise ratio - Better than 70dB

Distortion - better than 0.2% under all conditions.

Controls – Press buttons for on-off, P.U., radio and aux. Treble +15 to -15 dB at 10 kHz. Bass +15 to -15 dB at 100 Hz. Volume. Stereo Balance.

Channel matching within 1dB.

Front panel – brushed aluminium with black knobs Project 605 comprises Stereo 60 pre-amp/control

Project 605 comprises Stereo 60 pre-amp/control unit, two Z-30 power amplifiers, PZ-5 power supply unit, the unique new Masterlink, leads and instructions manual complete in one pack. Post free

£29.95

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BODINE TYPE N.C.I. GEARED MOTOR



BODINE TYPE N.C.I. GEARED MOTOR

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101b. inch.
Torque 101b. inch.
Reversible. 1/70th h.p.
50 cycle, 0:38 amp (Type 2)
101b. inch.
Reversible. 1/80th h.p.
102b. inch. Reversible. 1/80th
h.p., 50 cycle, 0:28 amp.
112 VOLT DC MOTOR

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Powerful I amp. RE-VERSIBLE motor. Speed 3,750 RPM com-plete with external gear train (removable) giving final speed of approx. 125 RPM. Size 44" × 24"dia. Price 95p inc. post. Ç

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GEARED MOTORS
Manufactured by either Sangamo, Haydon or Smith. Built-in gearbox.
I R.P.M. cw 1 R.P.H. A/cw 10 R.P.H. A/cw 30 R.P.M. cw 2 R.P.H. cw 18 R.P.H. A/cw 60 R.P.M. cw 3 R.P.H. cw 20 R.P.H. cw cw = Clockwise.
Cw = Clockwise.
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cw=Clockwise.
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Fraction of makers' price. All at 75p incl. P.&P.

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NEW in maker's BAKELITE £1 25

per doz. FLEXIBLE £1 50 per doz. Post paid (Minimum I doz.)

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Drives 15 cams, each poperating a 10 amp clo person witch. Cams are individually variable, allowing innumerable combinations. Ideally suited for machinery control, automation, etc. Also in the field of entertainment, for chaser lights, animated displays, etc. NEW PRICE: £5.75. P. & P. 25p.

Extremely powerful with approx. 14lb pull, 1" travel. Fitted with mounting feet. Size: 4" long, 2\frac{2}{3}" wide, 3" high. \(\frac{42.00}{2}\) incl. P. & P.



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(Similar to above illustration). Approx. 1½ lb pull. Size of feet 1¾" x 1". Price 85p incl. P & P Manufactured by Westool Ltd.

18-24 VOLT D.C. SOLENOID Size o.a.l. $3\frac{n}{k}$ x $1\frac{n}{k}$ x 1°. Maximum push at approx. I lb. PRICE: **75p** incl. P. & P.

MINIATURE RELAYS

9-12 volt D.C. operation, 2 c/o. 500 M.A. contacts. Size only I in. x i in. x i in. PRICE: 58p. Post paid.
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VENNER Electric Time Switch

200/250/ Ex. GPO. Tested. Manually set 2 on, 2 off every 24h. Override switch: 10A £2.75, 15A £3.25, 20A £3.75. P. & P. 20p. Also available with solar dial ON dusk, OFF dawn. Price as above. (@),

MICRO SWITCH

5 amp c/o contacts.
Fitted with removable push button assembly.
Ex. P.O. 20 for £1 inc. post. (Min. order 20)



"HONEYWELL" LEVER

OPERATED MICRO SWITCH
15 amps. 250 volt
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NEW in maker's
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VARIABLE VOLTAGE TRANSFORMERS

Superior Quality Precision Made

100 WATT. I ohm, 10A; 5 ohm, 47A; 10 ohm, 3A; 25 ohm, 2A; 50 ohm, 14A; 10 ohm, 1A; 250 ohm, 27A; 50 ohm, 0.45A; I kΩ, 280 mA; I:5 kΩ, 230mA; 2·5 kΩ, 2A; 5 kΩ, 140 mA. Diameter 3½in Shaft length ½in, dia. ½in. All at £1·50 each. P. & P. 5p. 50 WATT. 1/5/10/25/50/100/250/500/1/1·5/2·5/5kΩ. All at £1·12 each. P. & P. IIp. 25 WATT. 10/25/50/100/250/500/1/1·5/2·5/3·5/5kΩ. All at 78p each. P. & P. 15p.

STROBE! STROBE! STROBE!

Build a Strobe Unit, using the latest type Xenon light flash tube. Solid state timing and trig circuit. 230/250V a.c. operation. EXPERIMENTERS' ECONOMY KIT

ETCUIT. 439/430V 3-C. operation.

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Speed adjustable 1 to 36 Flash per sec. All electronic components including Veroboard S.C.R. Unijunction Xenon Tube and instructions 66·30, plus 25p P. & P. NEW INDUSTRIAL KIT

Ideally suitable for schools, laboratories, etc. Roller tin printed circuit. New trigger coil, plastic thyristor. Speed adjustable 1-80 f.p.s. Price 410·30. P. & P. 50p. HY-LYGHT STROBE MK 111

This strobe has been designed and produced for use in large rooms, halls and the photographic field and utilises a silica plug-in tube for longer life expectancy, printed circuit for easy assembly, also a special trigger coil and output capacitor. Speed adjustable 0-30 f.p.s. Light output approx. 4 joules. 412·00. P. & P. 50p. SPECIALLY DESIGNED. FULLY VENTILATED METAL CASE. Including reflector. 44·00 P. & P. 45p Post paid with kit.

THE 'SUPER' HY-LYGHT KIT

Approx. four times the light output of our well proven Hy-Lyght strobe. Incorporating:

Heavy duty power supply.

Variable speed from 1-23 flash per sec.

Reactor control circuit producing an intense white light. The brilliant light output of the "SUPER" HY-LYGHT gives fabulous effects with colour filter. Never before a Strobe Kit with so HIGH an output at so LOW a price. ONLY £20 plus 75p P. & P. ATTRACTIVE, ROBUST, FULLY VENTILATED METAL CASE specially designed for the Super Hy-Lyght Kit including reflector 67-00 P. & P. 45p. 7-inch POLISHED REFLECTOR

Ideally suited for above Strobe kits. Price 53p, P. & P. 13p or post paid with kits.

RELAYS New SIEMENS PLESSEY, etc. Miniature Relays at competitive prices. 3 4 1 2 2 700 15-35 2 c/o HD 65p* 1250 36-45 6M 61p* 2,400 30-48 4 c/o 61p* 2,400 30-48 4 c/o 61p* 2,400 30-48 4 c/o 61p* 9,000 40-70 2 c/o 50p* 15k 85-110 6M 6-9 2 HD M 50p 12-18 4 c/o 73p 9-12 4 c/o 78p* 9-12 2 c/o 73p* 18-32 4 c/o 78p* 16-24 4M 2B 63p* 16-24 4 c/o 78p* 12-24 2 c/o 63p*

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Three sets c/o contacts rated at 5 amps. 78p incl. P. & P. (Similar to illustration below.)

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Three sets c/o contacts rated at 5 amps. Price: 50p P & P 10p. (100 lots £40.00 incl. P & P.)

'KEY SWITCH' 230 VOLT A.C. RELAYS
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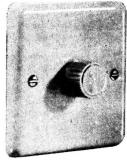
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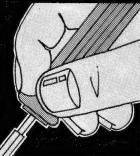


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everyday electronics

PROJECTS...

THEORY AND PRACTICE

Many an enthusiastic and impatient beginner has no doubt pondered about the importance of theoretical knowledge to the would-be constructor: just how deeply need one go into the seemingly abstruse subject of circuit theory before

starting to build electronic projects?

Well, the honest answer is that if one confiines oneself to building simple designs, such as described in this magazine, then there is no reason at all why one should not do just this, straight away. The detailed diagrams we provide certainly leave little if anything to doubt; the position of every component is indicated and all wiring connections are clearly shown. The accompanying components list gives in each case all the information necessary when asking for or writing for these items. Yes, it should be possible for most beginners to tackle our projects without delay, even though the technical explanations of the circuit operation may not be comprehensible at this stage.

Provided that proper components have been used and wiring connections made exactly as depicted in the diagrams, correct results should be obtained first time. (The value of checking and rechecking the wiring before connecting the power supply cannot be over emphasised.)

PRACTICAL VALUE

All the above is quite true, yet it must not be interpreted as encouragement to turn a blind eye to theory, to ignore fundamental principles entirely.

There is a perfectly sound and strictly practical reason for acquiring a knowledge of at least the basic principles of electronics as soon as possible. If something does go awry with a project due to a faulty component, even an elementary knowledge of the circuit operation will assist in tracking down the defective part. The remedy, likely as not, will then be simple to effect. But without that certain amount of basic knowledge one is of course confronted with an enigma that defies solution.

A BIGGER VIEW

Apart from facilitating fault-finding, an appreciation of the manner in which the circuit operates adds greatly to the general enjoyment one can derive from this hobby. The more advanced one's knowledge, the more attractive electronics becomes. An ever extending vista of interesting and tempting applications is seen as understanding of electronic fundamentals grows.

So, beginners, by all means have a go with the project of your choice. But do also take advantage of our tutorial series *Teach-In*. Then in a short while those circuit descriptions will become less mysterious and each circuit diagram will have its own interesting story to tell.

Tred Bennett.

Our March issue will be published on Friday, February 18

EDITOR F. E. BENNETT • M. KENWARD • B. W. TERRELL B.Sc.

ART EDITOR J. D. POUNTNEY • P. A. LOATES • S. W. R. LLOYD

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER D. W. B. TILLEARD

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.. EASY TO CONSTRUCT ... SIMPLY EXPLAINED



VOL. 1 NO. 4

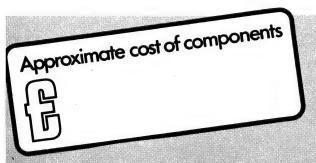
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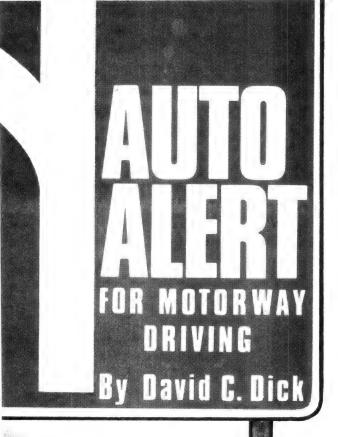
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The approximate cost of components given, for constructional articles, in the box shown opposite is an estimated cost compiled from suppliers current catalogue and advertised prices. Parts for some projects may work out more expensive while others may be cheaper than our quoted price, depending on where the components are purchased.

We would like to point out that we, as publishers, cannot supply kits of parts or individual

items for any of the published designs.



Approximate cost of components



2.50 inclusive

Keep a check on your awareness. The Auto Alert provides added safety for all long distance drivers.

WITH the ever-increasing growth of new dual carriageway roads and motorways, the average car driver is tempted to travel longer distances than he would previously have tackled.

The urge to "do the whole journey in one go" or to "cover the distance at night while the roads are quiet" has involved many a motorist in a nasty and often lethal accident. The tedium of a long unbroken motorway journey, the monotony of night driving, the hypnotic swishing of windscreen wipers and the blow of warm air from the heater are all possible causes of that lack of concentration (or even nodding off!) which at motorway speeds can be the cause of an extremely dangerous situation.

"DEAD MANS HANDLE"

The "dead man's handle" is the name given to a particular kind of footswitch which is fitted in the driver's cab of modern locomotives. The switch has a middle off position and the driver has to keep it in the middle position in normal driving. If the driver should faint or take ill his foot will either press the pedal fully down or his foot will lift off the pedal. Either way a contact is made and a warning klaxon sounds in the driver's cab. After a certain delay, if the pedal is not reset, the train's braking system will come on automatically.

A footswitch of this kind cannot be fitted in a car as the driver's left foot will be needed from time to time to press the clutch for gear changes and to operate the headlamp dip switch. However, the principle of the switch is a good one and can be adapted for use in a car.

CAR SYSTEM

The Auto Alert consists of a timing unit and two relays that are used to turn on a warning light and to sound the car horn. The Alert is turned on and a push-button or footswitch (whichever is preferred) is depressed to set the circuit. After a predetermined time interval the

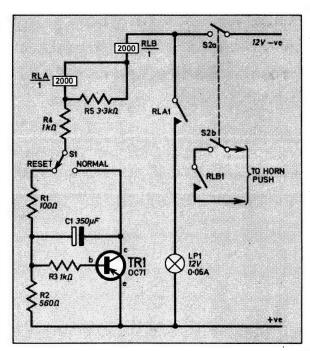


Fig. 1. Complete circuit diagram of the Auto Alert. S1 is the push button or footswitch that resets the unit.

Components. Resistors 100Ω R1 Shop Talk R₂ 560Ω Refers R₃ $1k\Omega$ R4 $1k\Omega$ R5 $3.3k\Omega$ All ½ Watt ±10% carbon Capacitor 350 μF elect, 15V C1 Transistor OC71 Germanium pnp **Switches** Single pole double throw micro-switch or push button (see text) S2 Double pole single throw car type toggle Relays RLA G.P.O. 3000 type, 2,000 ohm coil with single pole normally closed contacts RLB G.P.O. 3000 type, 2,000 ohm coil with heavy duty single pole normally closed contacts Miscellaneous LP1 12V bulb and holder Car switch panel—two hole type (see text) Metal brackets (2 off see text) 10 way connecting strip, hardboard, connecting wire and 4BA fixings Materials for foot switch if used (see text and Fig. 5)

light on the Alert will come on and the driver should press the switch to reset the Alert. If, due to lack of concentration, the driver fails to notice the light and does not press the switch then, after a further short interval, the car horn will sound to warn the driver.

Thus a regular check is kept on the concentration of the driver and any tendency to lose concentration will be noticed before it gets to the eyelid drooping or daydream driving stage.

It is important that the unit is not regarded as an automatic "waker-upper". The first time that the horn operates the driver must take the warning, pull off the road and not drive again until he is sure that he is sufficiently alert.

CIRCUIT OPERATION

Assume the circuit (Fig. 1) to be in the "normal" condition with C1 fully discharged. When voltage is applied TR1 will be passing current due to the voltage at its base being the same as at the collector. As C1 gradually charges up TR1 will slowly turn off and the current passing through the relays will diminish. As resistor R5 is fitted across the coil of RLA the current flowing through RLA at any time will be less than that flowing through RLB; thus RLA will drop out before RLB.

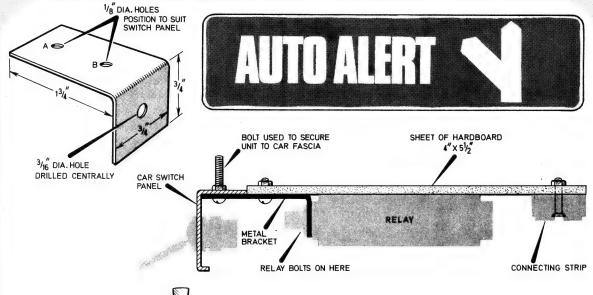
When RLA contacts close lamp LP1 will light and, unless this is noticed within approximately 20 seconds, RLB contacts will also close and sound the car horn. If, however, the light is noticed and the reset button pressed, the circuit will return to the "normal" position (C1 fully discharged) by the following method.

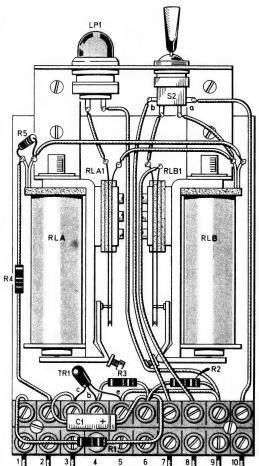
With S1 in the reset position C1, which is now charged up, provides the collector voltage. To discharge C1, TR1 must conduct and it does so because R1 and R2 form a potential divider across the supply so that a negative voltage is applied to the base. Capacitor C1 then discharges through TR1 and R2. During the "reset" time current passing through R1 and R2 will keep both relays energised, so preventing the horn from sounding and extinguishing the warning lamp LP1.

Variation of the value of C1 will alter the time interval—increase C1 to increase the time and decrease C1 to decrease the time.

CONSTRUCTION

The design of the unit was drawn up to enable it to be constructed with only a minimum of skills. First, take a two-hole car switch panel; this is available from any car accessories shop and already has two holes drilled in the outer face with two smaller holes drilled in the top lip. The two larger holes in the face will be used for mounting the switch S2 (see Fig. 3) and the lampholder for lamp LP1. The next components to be fitted are the two metal brackets. The brackets used in the prototype were bought





TO HORN PUSH

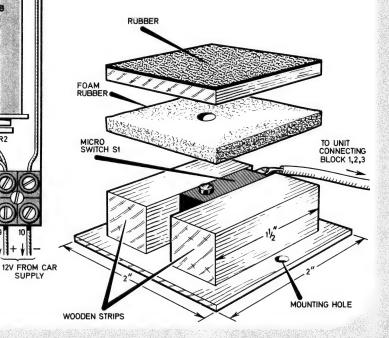
SUPPLY

Fig. 2. (top left) Mounting bracket for relays RLA and RLB.

Fig. 3. (above) Showing how the mechanical parts fit together.

Fig. 4 (left) Layout and wiring of all components except SI. The wire from position 2 on the connecting strip goes to the centre contact of SI.

Fig. 5 (below) Construction of the foot switch.

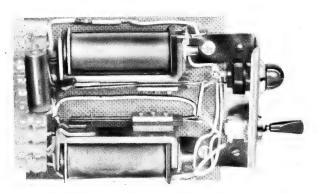


RESET

S1 (MICRO SWITCH)

SPOT

TR1 OC71



Prototype Auto Alert. Switch S1 and some of the wiring has been slightly modified.

ready drilled from Woolworths for a few pence each. If these are not available they can be made from the measurements given in Fig. 2.

Using two 1 inch long bolts, bolt together the switch panel and the two brackets. The longest legs of the brackets are placed under the top lip of the switch panel (see Fig. 3) and the bolts are placed up through holes "a" in the brackets. The excess length of these bolts will be used later to secure the entire completed unit to the underside of the car dashboard.

A sheet of hardboard measuring 4 inches by 512 inches is next bolted to the brackets using the remaining small holes "b" in the brackets (see Fig. 3). The hardboard will act as a baseboard for the circuitry and as a dust cover for the relay contacts and other components. A ten-way screw connecting strip is bolted across the bottom of the baseboard as in Fig. 4. This connecting strip is used to mount the components in preference to a conventional tag strip as this makes for easier fitting of the complete unit into the car. If constructors have facilities for soldering in the car (a 12 volt soldering iron or an extension mains lead, for example) then they may prefer to use a normal tag strip and solder all the connections.

We are now ready to mount the components. The lampholder and switch S2 should be mounted on the switch panel, and the two relays are fixed to the brackets.

RELAYS

At the end of the relay next to the coils and spring set tags, there is a square of paxolin with three holes drilled in it. Through the two outer holes are screws which are normally used for the mounting of the relay. These two screws and the paxolin square can be removed as they will not be used. This leaves a circular nut which is used to hold the coil core to the relay frame. This nut should be undone and the bolt from the relay coil passed through the remaining hole in the bracket. The nut should then be screwed back on using a washer. Both relays are thus held

securely to the unit. See Figs. 3 and 4.

The relays purchased for the prototype were fitted with further contacts; in this case the unwanted layers of spring contacts should be removed otherwise the relay will not operate at the low current necessary. Relay RLB is used to switch the horn and as the horn takes a substantial current it is considered necessary to fit heavy-duty relay contacts to handle the current. It should be remembered, however, that the relay should hardly ever be used to switch on the horn and therefore heavy-duty contacts are not essential.

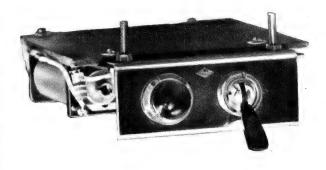
WIRING

The wiring should be carried out as in Fig. 4. Where more than one wire goes into one hole of the connecting strip it is a good idea to solder the wires together before screwing down. This will improve future fault liability.

Remember to connect the electrolytic capacitor in the correct polarity. Also it is important to connect the transistor in the manner given in the diagram. The red spot of the transistor body is at the side next to the collector lead and the base connection is the middle lead. If the leads are reversed the unit will not work and it is probable that the transistor will be destroyed. If you construct the unit using a tag strip or solder the connections affix the transistor after completing the wiring and hold each lead in a small pair of pliers while soldering to prevent overheating and thus damaging the transistor.

RESET SWITCH

Either a footswitch or a dashswitch can be used for S1. The cover illustration depicts a dash-mounted push-button and lamp. If such an arrangement is required the on/off switch and the unit can be placed in the car dash panel and the lamp and push-button can be mounted remotely in a convenient position or with the on/off switch in the panel. A micro-switch is probably best used with the footswitch design given and a normal change-over push-button (momentary contact type) used for a dash-mounted button.



THE FOOTSWITCH

The construction of the footswitch is shown in Fig. 5. The micro-switch is held between two strips of wood, each strip being approximately 112 inches long and of the same height as the micro-switch body. This means that the operating plunger of the micro-switch will protrude above the level of the wood strips. It was found sufficient to glue the pieces together with Evo-Stik, and this gave a permanent joint. The completed piece can then be glued to the base section. The base section is 2 inches square and can be constructed from any kind of material; in the prototype a piece of hardboard was used. The base should have two holes drilled in it as in Fig. 5, these holes will be used later for fixing the switch to the car floor.

Next, a piece of foam rubber, 12 inch thick and 1^12 inches square, should be glued across the wood strips, a hole being cut in the foam around the micro-switch plunger. On top of the foam rubber another piece of hardboard 1^12 inches square is glued, this piece of hardboard is covered with rubber to prevent slipping. The footswitch is now complete and can be screwed to the car floor with self-tapping screws.

FITTING

Before fitting carefully check the wiring for any mistakes. Two holes should be drilled in the underside of the car dashboard and the two bolts from the unit pushed through the holes and secured with nuts, preferably using spring or serrated washers. The wiring from the footswitch should now be brought up to the unit and screwed into the connecting strip at the appropriate points. To make the wiring inconspicuous, it can be taken up under carpets, where this is convenient. Wires can now be taken from the unit to the horn wiring and to the supply.

The two leads from the unit to the horn push are connected across the push, the polarity does not matter (one side of the push may be connected to earth). Supply wiring will depend on the earth polarity of the car and this should be checked before connecting the unit. The live supply can be taken from the ignition switch.

Once the wiring to the car is complete the unit is ready for use, press the reset button and hold it pressed until the unit is turned on, then release and check the function of the unit. Remember do not keep your foot on the reset button all the time and do not use the Alert to keep you awake.

Ruminations By Sensor

An Act of Charity

I thumped the television set on the top right hand corner. That was two months ago and since then it has behaved itself. There was a shift in the tuning position of the three programmes, but the set has remained stable. I did not strike it in anger, although in the circumstances one might have been forgiven for doing so, for it had developed an intermittent fault that caused it to go out of tune, losing sound and vision, usually during the news or when Bamber Gascoigne was giving the answer to one of the "University Challenge" questions. The trouble never occurred during the advertisements. such behaviour could not be allowed to continue, I had to act.

The set is on rental. I ought to have sent for the service engineer, but I know from my own experience that intermittent faults are the most time consuming and frustrating aspects of a serviceman's life, or indeed, of anyone concerned with the reliability and maintenance of electronic equipment. Such faults often fail to appear when the engineer is called but can be depended upon to show up when his van has turned the corner.

Even if the fault does appear in the presence of the serviceman the slight disturbance created by the action of removing the back of the set or of connecting a test meter will often cause it to disappear again. Many of these intermittent faults are caused by "dry" joints (badly soldered connections which develop into high resistance joints after a period of time) and although there are techniques that can aid the serviceman, the diagnostic procedure is largely a matter of poking, prodding, tapping and on occasion, "thumping" various parts of the set, coupled with a keen visual inspection of the soldered joints.

This last is far from easy when the set has been in use for some time and has accumulated a thick layer of grime over the component boards. The idea behind the tapping and thumping business is to cause the fault to appear so that it can be diagnosed by conventional methods; this is why I thumped my television—to present the serviceman with an easier job! However, I achieved a temporary "cure" instead. How long it will last is anyone's guess.

An Uplifting Experience

Low insulation resistance can cause strange and sometimes dangerous faults to develop. An acquaintance of mine who worked for the electricity board was sent to investigate a complaint made by the trustees of an old chapel. It was alleged that ladies using the chapel toilet had received electric shocks.

My acquaintance, rather daringly, poured a bucket of water down the toilet and was rewarded for his boldness by a mild but stimulating electric shock. It was discovered that the insulation of some nearby cable had deteriorated and an earth leak had developed via the concrete floor. Users of the toilet thus formed a parallel path for the leakage current, with disconcerting but fortunately not disastrous results.

RADIO CONTROL MONITOR

Provides a quick check on radio control transmitter function. Pocket size and self powered for ease of operation "in the field."

By F. G. Rayer, A.I.E.R.E.

THE 27MHz radio frequency (r.f.) band used for the control of models by radio, extends from 26.96MHz to 27.28MHz; transmissions for this purpose may consist of an unmodulated carrier wave, or a carrier wave which is modulated by one or more audio frequency tones, Signals which are radiated by the transmitter can be checked with a monitor.

The simple monitor described here is self powered and of compact size, so it can readily be carried out of doors, with the transmitter, model and other equipment. It allows a quick check of normal carrier-wave power and frequency, and of any audio modulation tones which

may be used.



CIRCUIT

The complete circuit is shown in Fig. 1. A coil consisting of three windings, L1, L2 and L3 forms the basis of the circuit. L1 is the tuned winding, and the operating frequency is set to that of the transmitter by means of the trimmer C1. With the coil and trimmer described, the whole of the model control band is easily covered. When the transmitter and the tuned circuit (L1 and C1) are set to the same frequency, and the monitor is held in a position where it picks up sufficient r.f. (radio frequency) energy, L1 absorbs some of the power from the transmitter. The monitor has two indicating devices, operated by the power absorbed.

Winding L2 is inductively coupled to L1 and when L1 absorbs r.f. power this is induced in L2 and provides current for the small lamp LP1. Resonance between the transmitter and monitor frequencies is shown by maximum brightness of this lamp. The brightness of the lamp also shows that the transmitter is producing its normal r.f. power.

Winding L3, with the diode D1 and earpiece TL1, give audible monitoring of the tones produced by the transmitter. So the control and tone-producing circuits of the transmitter can be immediately checked, by listening with the earpiece. The diode acts as a detector to extract the audio signal from the amplitude modulated r.f. signal that the transmitter provides.

Some changes in components will not unduly affect the circuit. The earpiece TL1 can be between 35 and 250 ohms impedance, of the kind used with transistor radio receivers. It would also be quite possible to use a different wire gauge or tube size for the coil, although some experiment with the number of turns would then be necessary

The lamp must be a low-consumption type; a 6 volt 0.04 amp bulb, as used for cycle dynamo rear lamps, is most suitable, but a 6V 0.06A could be used. Bulbs which take the smallest current will give the more sensitive indication.

CONSTRUCTIONAL DETAILS

The monitor is constructed to the details shown in Fig. 2, then inserted in a 3^{1}_{2} inch long by 1^{1}_{4} inch diameter paxolin tube.

A piece is 1/16 inch thick paxolin 3^{1}_{2} inches long is cut to such a width that it is a tight fit inside the 1^{1}_{4} inch tube. For part of its length the paxolin is further reduced in width, so that it fits tightly inside a 1 inch diameter paxolin tube. The paxolin sheet is best cut slightly oversize, and then filed to fit.

The 1 inch diameter tube that is the coil former is 1 inch long. All windings are of 24 s.w.g. enamelled copper wire, wound side by side. Drill six 1/16 inch holes in the tube as shown in Fig. 2, thread the wire through hole A, smear part of the tube with Bostik 1, or similar adhesive or cement, and wind on nine turns to form L1,



Approximate cost of components



1.30 inclusive



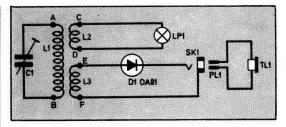


Fig. 1. Complete circuit diagram of the Radio Control Monitor.

Components....

Capacitor

C1 6—25pF

ceramic trimmer

Diode

D1 OA81

Shop Talk refers

Lamp

LP1 6V 0.04A screw in bulb (see text)

Earpiece

TL1 35Ω to 250Ω earpiece with miniature jack plug (PL1)

Socket

SK1

Miniature jack socket to suit earpiece plug

Miscellaneous

24 s.w.g. enamelled copper wire

P.V.C. covered connecting wire

 $\frac{1}{16}$ inch s.r.b.p. or paxolin board $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. x $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Thin paxolin 1¼in. square for end pieces (2 off)

Paxolin tube 1 in. x 1 in. diameter and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. x $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter

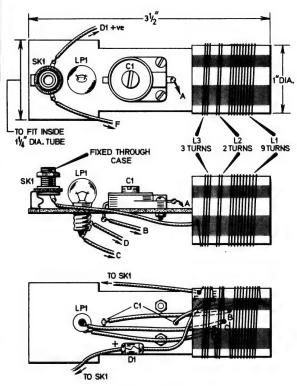


Fig. 2. Constructional details showing the complete unit without the case. The three views show the top, side and underside of the unit. SK1 is mounted through the outer case.

finishing by pulling the end through hole B. Make L2 (two turns) and L3 (three turns) the same way.

The tube is then cemented in place on the panel, with the wire ends running back (as shown in Fig. 2) identified with coloured 1mm p.v.c. sleeving. The lamp LP1, is a screw fit in a hole drilled through the panel. Leads C and D are soldered to its side and end pip. Since, with careful use, the bulb should never need replacing, this method of fixing is suitable. Two 8BA bolts hold the trimmer, and the miniature jack socket is fitted through a hole in the outer tube.

TESTING

To test the monitor, set the trimmer about half open, using a non-inductive trimming tool, and bring the monitor coil into the field of the transmitter aerial (tank) coil. Rotate the trimmer with the trimming tool to tune L1 to resonance with the transmitter; this is shown by maximum brilliance of the lamp. At the same time move the monitor away from the transmitter coil, as required, so that the bulb only glows dimly.

If the transmitter is of a type producing audio tones, plug in the earpiece, operate the trans-

mitter, and listen for the audio signals.

Slight re-adjustment of the trimmer is necessary after the monitor has been fitted in its protective case. The tubular case has a \$^1_4\$ inch hole for the jack socket, a similar hole through which to see the lamp filament, and a third smaller hole allowing the trimmer to be adjusted with a trimming tool. Both ends of the tube are closed with paxolin discs cemented on. The tubular case must not be made of metal of any type.

METHOD OF USE

The monitor is held by the jack end, and its coil brought near the power amplifier or tank coil of the model control transmitter. The trimmer is adjusted with a non-inductive trimming tool, and tuning should be quite sharp. Move the monitor slightly away from the transmitter, so that LP1 filament only just glows at the correct tuning point. This gives the sharpest resonance indication, and avoids blowing the filament.

If the transmitter is totally enclosed in such a way that the tank coil cannot be approached, a loop consisting of one or two turns of insulated wire can be placed in the aerial connection, and

the monitor approached to this.

If the transmitter has variable frequency tuning, as with self-energised oscillators, a check on transmitter frequency can be made by noting that its tuning agrees with maximum brilliance

of the lamp, keeping coupling loose.

Where the transmitter has tuning adjustments which govern the output power, note that these are set so that the lamp lights with its usual brightness. For tone transmitters, plug in the earpiece and listen in turn for each normal tone. Lack of any indication at all will show that the transmitter has failed.



Soil Moisture Meter

Don't kill your plants by over-watering—plants of different species have their own requirements. This meter measures soil moisture at root depth.

Darkroom Timer

Do your own printing? Then this timer is for you; it has switched positions to cover the range of times normally used for exposures in the darkroom.



For fault finding in radio's and amplifiers.





ANY aspects of modern life use a computer; more and more of us find that computers have become part of our everyday lives. We feel their effect most in the management of our financial affairs. Our cheques are processed by computers which read magnetic ink patterns printed on the cheques; internal banking transactions, such as transfers from one account to another, are performed by computer. Our salaries, with bonus, overtime, and other remunerations, are calculated by computers which also deduct tax, National Insurance contributions, and so on. Details are then printed onto our payslips and salary cheques.

Invoices are processed and printed by computers which also calculate and subtract discounts, and prepare all necessary bills. Large scale industrial control can be performed continuously by computers in places such as oil refineries, steel mills, breweries, car manufac-

turing plants, and so on.

Any of you that have travelled by air would probably have had all details of your booking stored in a computer. At each booking point there would be a computer terminal—a link between the booking clerk and the computer which indicates details of any flight, and in particular, whether there are any spare seats available.

Computer terminals are not confined to airline booking offices. Many small companies with a

need for computer aid, but without the necessary funds to own their own computer system, utilise a time-sharing process. These users each have a remote terminal linked to the central computer system via the Post Office telephone lines.

The computers used for these systems are capable of processing several different user's programmes, apparently simultaneously. This is called multiprogramming. The link between the terminal and the computer is made after the operator has dialled the correct number on a conventional telephone. The time taken for processing the customers programme is recorded, and is consequently used to determine the cost.

DEFINITION

A computer may be defined as a device capable of automatically accepting data, applying a sequence of processes to the data, and supplying the results of these processes to its user. There are basically two types of electronic computer; analogue and digital.

Heading photograph. Magnetic discs and tapes can store massive amounts of information. Each of the disc drives in the foreground can store 18.4 million characters of data, enough to store the entire contents of the Bible twice. The tape drives at the rear can store 14 million characters. (Honeywell Information Systems Ltd.)

An analogue computer is a machine in which the value of a signal is proportional to the value which it represents. Such a signal is continuously variable, and may take any one of a large number of possible values. For instance, a car engine tachometer reading reflects the changes in the engine rotational rate. The indication is analogous to engine speed.

In contrast to the analogue signal, the digital signal has a discrete numerical value. It either exists and has one value, or it does not exist and has another value. This gives us the two "states" we require for use in the digital computer. A positive signal can represent the figure one, and no signal can represent zero.

DIGITAL COMPUTER

For the purposes of this article we shall only consider the digital computer. To understand digital computer functioning we must first appreciate the number system used for making the calculations.

The earliest system resulted from man's desire to know "how many." To answer this he used the tally system; for each item counted he made a mark, or tally. Whilst providing some means of measuring, this system proved very limited and unwieldy for even comparatively small numbers.

For convenience we now use the decimal system which runs through a cycle of ten symbols before any are repeated. It is said to have a base of ten. Any decimal number can be broken down into a number of tens, a number of tens of tens (hundreds), and so on.

Although the decimal system is logical and consistent, it requires the use of ten digits which makes it unsuitable for electronic representa-

The cleanliness of the modern computer room can be seen here. The girl operator is using the keyboard to enter information into the computer memory. (International Computers Ltd.)



Everyday Electronics, February 1972



An operator uses a console to write instructions directly into the main or control memory areas of the computer. (Honeywell Information Systems Ltd.)

tion. We must, therefore, study an alternative system which we call binary.

In the binary system the base number is two, and each binary digit, or bit, can only have one of two possible values, zero or one. The rules for the construction of this system are similar to those for decimal, as also are the rules for addition and subtraction; we just carry when the count becomes greater than one, or borrow two instead of ten.

As the numerical value increases, the number of bits required to represent it also increases. In the computer we must restrict the number of bits per character or per work to keep the calculations manageable. Usually computers confine the length of a character or a word to between six and forty bits.

SOFTWARE

Software is a term describing the programme of instructions, usually supplied by the computer manufacturer, to enable communication with the computer and control of its operation. So great is the importance of software that investment in its production represents a high percentage of funds allocated for design, development, and marketing of computer systems. Indeed, computer sales can depend on the availability and versatility of the software, and not on the hardware—the mechanical and electronic parts of a computer.

Software includes all manner of operating procedures and programmes, such as assemblers or compilers—programmes which convert programmes written in symbolic languages such as FORTRAN and COBOL into the machine code required by the computer.

Other types of programmes include Executives—programmes which control the operation



A pair of visual display units are shown here against a background of magnetic tape drives. Information is shown on the face of a cathode ray tube, as in a television set. (Burroughs Machines Ltd.)

of other programmes; Subroutines—programmes designed to perform routine calculations; and Diagnostic Routines—programmes used by the service engineer to facilitate fault finding, and to indicate whether the system is functioning correctly.

Assemblers, Executives, and Subroutines form part of a processing package—a software package enabling the user to fulfil his data processing requirements. This package is normally called an Applications Package, and is software written especially to the users own requirements.

As previously mentioned, hardware comprises the physical units in a computer system—the mechanical and electronic assemblies.

HARDWARE

Computer system hardware consists of two main areas. The first is the Central Processor, more commonly called the C.P. which performs all the major calculative and control functions. We shall consider C.P. operation later in this article. The second area embraces the peripherals commonly called input/output devices.

PERIPHERALS

To place a programme and the associated data into the C.P., we must have some form of reading, or input device. The commonest input device is the operators keyboard, or console, which enables direct manual communication with the C.P. It is generally used to instruct the C.P. to read data from an input source, or to input parameters and additional data during programme runs.

The information typed into the keyboard, or console, may be printed on paper, or displayed on a television monitor type unit which presents

the information on the screen of a cathode ray tube.

There are basically four methods of supplying new data to the computer. The most common method is probably the punched card.

PUNCHED CARD

This is a card containing rows and columns punched with holes in the required code. Punched card readers can have either optical or mechanical reading arrangements.

Optical readers contain lamps and photocells arranged so that the card passing between them causes a pulse of light for each hole detected.

In the mechanical systems, the card passes between a set of contacts and metal fingers which press lightly against the card. When a hole passes a contact the finger is allowed to press against the contact and complete the circuit.

Speeds of card readers vary between 400 and 1,000 cards per minute, with about 800 cards per minute being typical. The cards are relatively cheap, easy to sort, and in some cases the data contained on the card is printed along the top edge allowing the card to be read visually. However, they are bulky, making them difficult to store. They are affected by atmospheric conditions, particularly humidity, and are easily damaged.

PUNCHED TAPE

Punched paper-tape is another common input medium. The tape is normally a one inch wide strip of paper-tape on a spool. The data is contained in rows, or frames, punched in a computer readable code. Tape is often produced by other devices, such as a typewriter or cash register. Tape readers are normally optical devices, operating similarly to the optical card reader.

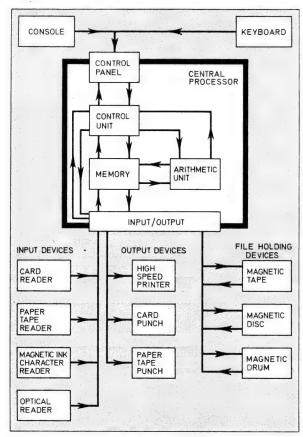
Tape readers can operate at speeds of between 300 and 2,000 frames per second, with around 1,000 frames per second being typical. Paper tape is inexpensive, but because the data is punched serially it cannot easily be amended.

MAGNETIC INK READERS

Magnetic ink character readers enable cheques and similar documents to be read. Each cheque contains a series of numbers printed in magnetic ink. The reader senses the shape of the magnetic field emitted by each character. Cheque readers can process up to 1,600 cheques per minute.

OPTICAL READERS

Optical character readers have not yet been fully developed as a method of reading handwriting, such as signatures, but most in use are able to read standard shaped letters of the alphabet, using a photoelectric cell to scan characters



This illustrates the general organisation of a typical computer system. Major data and control paths are indicated. A system may use some, or all of the input and output devices, and in the case of the file holding devices, the system may utilise a number of each type.

printed in ordinary black ink.

The devices mentioned so far have been input devices, supplying data to the computer. Punched cards and paper tape can also be used to take data from the computer. Card and tape punches are, however, rather slower than the readers.

OUTPUT

The commonest output device is the high speed line-printer. This is a machine which types the data onto paper in complete lines, instead of a character at a time. Speeds vary from 300 lines per minute to around 1,500 lines per minute, with 650 lines per minute being typical. A line can be up to 132 characters wide.

These high printing speeds are extremely useful where large quantities of information are required. A line-printer is considered essential for all commercial computer applications, for presentation of report and analysis details, and financial statements.



A finance company uses this large computer installation for the maintenance of the accounts for customers and dealers. The system uses a variety of peripheral devices, including a high speed printer, magnetic tape drives, magnetic disc drives and a paper tape reader. (The National Cash Register Company Ltd.)

STORAGE

The third group of peripherals are known as storage, or file holding devices, and are input and output devices. These peripherals operate on similar principles to the domestic tape recorder, by placing a pattern of magnetic fields on a ferrous oxide surface.

Magnetic recording tape is similar to domestic recording tape, but has a finer grade of oxide coating enabling a higher density of data to be held. It is also wider than domestic tape, ¹₂ inch being a standard.

The data is recorded in serial form, and consequently, if some data near the end of the tape is required, some time is taken to reach it—this is called the "data access" time. This is ideal for storing information used in a serial form, such as programmes.

Magnetic discs, another storage device and much faster access time than any other type, look similar to a stack of records on an autochanger spindle. Both side of each disc are coated with oxide. Read/write heads project into the gaps between pairs of discs and can read from, or write to, both discs.

The magnetic discs revolve at a very high set speed, and by synchronising the head position, information can be read, or written. This type of device is called a direct access device because any item of data can be found easily and quickly.

Magnetic drums are cylinders coated with ferrous oxide on the outside. Read/write heads are spread along the length of the drum, and as the drum rotates at a set speed, data is transferred to, or from the required area of the drum.



An engineer uses a light pen to amend an engineering diagram. This system is used in the development of printed and integrated circuits. (Digital Equipment Company Ltd.)

CENTRAL PROCESSOR

The central processor unit, or C.P. is the nerve centre of a computer operation. It is here that all calculative and control functions are performed. To do this the C.P. must contain four essential circuit areas. These are; memory, control, arithmetic, and input/output.

When we make any sort of calculation we must have some means of retaining the facts required to arrive at the solution. We use our brain when doing this manually, or perhaps a pencil and paper for the more complex operations. The combination of these could be called our memory unit. The computer memory performs this type of function. It is simply an area in which it can store the data, the programme to process the data, and the results obtained.

MEMORY

The computer memory is like a large electronic filing system. It contains hundreds of "memory locations", each with an exclusive address, and each capable of containing one data statement, or a programme command.

Each location consists of a number of magnetic cores, which are minute ferrous oxide impregnated rings. Each binary bit is stored in one of these cores, and can be read in less than one microsecond.

The programmer arranges his programme so that the instructions occupy a sequential block of memory locations. When the programme is run the address of the first location is entered into a programme counter. As each instruction is executed the counter is incremented, and therefore contains the address of the next instruction. Consequently the machine can complete all the required calculations automatically.

An instruction to the computer does not contain the data that is to be processed, but the address of the location in the memory.

When executing the instruction, the computer

control takes the data from memory, and moves it to the arithmetic area for modification as prescribed by the instruction.

ARITHMETIC UNIT

The arithmetic unit of the C.P. is the workhorse area in which all calculations are carried out. It consists basically of an accumulator, or a number of accumulators, and an adding network.

To add two numbers together the machine takes the first number from memory and places it in the accumulator. The second number is then removed from memory, added to the accumulator and the sum of the two is retained in the accumulator. The result may then be stored in a new memory location to leave the arithmetic unit free to continue other processes.

CONTROL UNIT

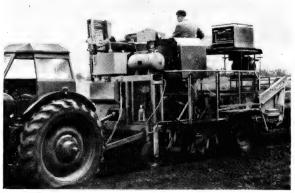
All the data movements and manipulations must be correctly sequenced and routed. This is the task of the control unit which acts as switching device. As each programmed instruction is extracted from the memory it is translated into a series of actions which direct the memory and arithmetic units to supply and process the appropriate data. The control unit also directs the input/output unit when an instruction requires action on the part of a peripheral device.

THE FUTURE

Future developments look towards the building of smaller computers. Increased use of integrated circuits has already caused the central processor to become one of the physically smaller units of a system.

It appears that the domestic computer may soon become a reality. Industry and commerce will be able to draw data from central banks via a world-wide computer network, using satellite communication systems.

Computer usage is not restricted to office and factory. Here, a small computer is mounted on an experimental potato picking machine. The use of this computer is to control and evaluate the performance of the machinery. (Digital Equipment Company Ltd.)



Everyday Electronics, February 1972



TEACH-IN ERS

By Mike Hughes M.A.

4

POWER

Ast month when we connected the 10 kilohm resistor in series with a 1mA meter, the reading in milliamps had the same numerical value as the voltage that was driving the current. Go back to using the single 10 kilohm in series with the meter and change the voltage of the battery to 4·5 volts. The current will be 0·45mA. Thus by changing the scale of the meter, we have a simple voltmeter which can measure up to 10 volts full scale. By putting two 10 kilohm resistors in series we have a voltmeter with a full scale reading of 20 volts. A two range voltmeter is shown in Fig. 1.

Make yourself a simple voltmeter using these principles. Initially it can be made up on the Demo Deck but if desired a separate meter could be bought and a separate instrument made.

A voltmeter of this type will usefully measure voltages in many electronic circuits but it suffers from a problem. This problem is that it has a resistance that in itself can "shunt" the circuit which is providing the voltage to be measured.

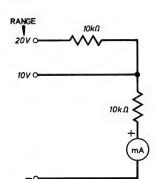


Fig. 1. A two range voltmeter. The numerical value of the current (in milliamps) gives the voltage value being measured.

This upsets the balance within the circuit and an erroneous voltage will be measured which will always read lower than actual. This means that the meter lacks sensitivity.

SENSITIVITY

The sensitivity of a meter is rated as the number of ohms the meter presents for every volt it measures. The unit we have just made is 1,000 ohms per volt and is fairly poor; more typically one requires a meter having a sensitivity of at least 10,000 ohms per volt. To make this we would have to use a basic movement having a sensitivity of 100 microamps (a microamp is one millionth of an ampere) and all our resistors would have to be scaled up in value by a factor of 10.

Test the effect of poor voltmeter sensitivity by connecting two 22 kilohm resistors in series across a 9V battery, and then use our 1,000 ohms per volt meter to measure the voltage between one end of the resistors and the common junction of the two (Fig. 2), then do the same with two 1 kilohm resistors. The reading should be $4\cdot5V$.

Justify in your own minds exactly what is happening and why the actual reading is less. The reason for this is that the 10 kilohm resistance of the meter has more shunting effect on the circuit using 22 kilohm resistors than with that using 1 kilohm resistors.

POTENTIAL DIVIDERS

The circuit of Fig. 2 is sometimes called a potential divider because the midpoint of two resistors has a potential which is based on the

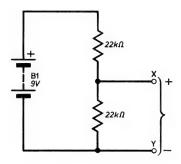


Fig. 2. Circuit for demonstrating voltmeter sensitivity.

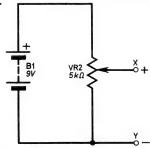


Fig. 3. The circuit diagram to be wired up on the Demo Deck to illustrate the function of a "potential divider."

potential difference across both resistors and the ratio of their values.

Substitute VR2 for the two resistors and use the wiper as the midpoint which can be varied in position to alter the ratio of the resistances either side of the wiper (Fig. 3). Measure the voltage between one end and the wiper as the knob is turned. You should get a smooth change from zero to 9V. Now try the same experiment with VR3 and VR4.

There is a great deal one can say about the principles of resistor networks, but in this beginners guide we have covered just sufficient to be of use later.

POWER

We are all familiar with the term POWER when applied to electricity. In any context it is the ability to do work whether it be manpower, horsepower or electrical power. In the latter case it is usually associated with the ability to heat something, light something or move something—the cone of a loudspeaker for example.

Driving voltage itself is not sufficient to do work—we must have current flow as well. Power is a function of both voltage and current and is measured in units of or fractions of a "watt".

Power measured in watts, $P=V\times I$ where V is the potential difference in volts and I is current flow in amperes. We can use this expression to calculate any one of the terms if the other two are known.

The current drawn by an electric fire of power 1.5 kilowatt (1.5kW) running from 250V mains

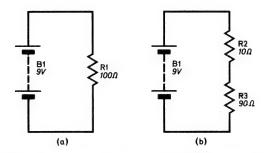


Fig. 4. The power dissipated in R1 is greater than in each of R2 and R3, but the total power dissipated in each circuit is identical.

will be given by

$$I = \frac{P}{V} = \frac{1500}{250} = 6 \text{ amperes}$$

Most frequently we are concerned with calculating the amount of power required by or dissipated in a circuit. The power dissipated in a resistor shows itself as heat, and is calculated from the current flowing through the resistance and the potential difference across it. The "potential drop" is equal to the value of the resistor multiplied by the current flowing through it (Ohm's Law)— $V=I\times R$. We can substitute $I\times R$ for V in the expression for power and obtain

 $P=I \times I \times R$ this is usually written $P=I^2 \times R$ This means that we can calculate the power dissipated in any resistor purely from knowing the current flowing in the resistor and the ohmic value of the resistor.

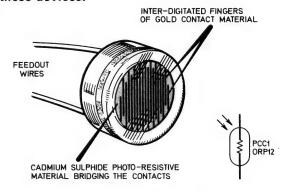
Look at Fig. 4a. We have a 100 ohm resistor connected across a 9V battery. What is the power dissipation in it? First of all calculate the current:

$$I = \frac{V}{R} = \frac{9}{100} = 0.09 \text{ ampere}$$

The power dissipated is therefore, $0.09 \times 0.09 \times 100 = 0.81$ watt.

Resistor R1 would have to be capable of dis-

Fig. 5. The ORP12, a typical photo conductive cell, shown in diagramatic form together with the circuit symbol and designation, PCC, for these devices.



sipating this amount of heat without undue rise in its temperature and the nearest commercially available type is a one watt device.

Fig. 4b shows two resistors in series across a 9 volt battery. Try calculating the dissipation in each resistor. First of all calculate the current flowing through the circuit as a whole then use this value of current in conjunction with the ohmic value of each of the resistors in turn. The answers are 0.08W for R2 and 0.73W for R3. Note that, although they are in the same circuit there is considerable difference in their respective dissipation. To prevent overheating the nearest commercial grades that we would use are $^{1}_{8}$ and 1 watt devices respectively.

LIGHT DEPENDENT RESISTOR

Some electronic components have their maximum rating specified in terms of power as opposed to current. This is usual when overheating is likely to cause irreparable damage to the component. A typical example of this is the photo conductive cell or light dependent resistor. This is a very interesting and useful component because it enables us to make a whole range of simple but fascinating circuits that are actuated by light.

As its name implies it is a resistor whose ohmic value varies as light falls on it. The one we shall be talking about is readily available

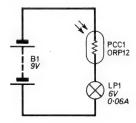
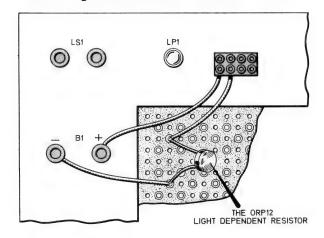


Fig. 6. (above) The circuit to demonstrate the action of a photocell. When bright light is incident on the cell, the lamp LP1 will light. (below) The wiring of this circuit on the Demo Deck.



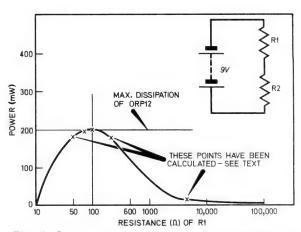


Fig. 7. Graph showing the power dissipation in R1 for various values of resistance with R2 held constant at 100 ohms. This is a maximum when R1 = R2.

and comparatively cheap—the ORP12. The appearance of the device is shown together with its symbol in Fig. 5; you can see that, like a resistor, there are two leads from it and the polarity of connection is not important.

There are several different types of this device (the ORP12 is perhaps the most common) but they can all be recognised by the distinctive interlocking fingers making contact with the photosensitive material — cadmium sulphide (CdS). Photographers will no doubt be familiar with the device because it is used as the sensor in CdS exposure meters.

The manufacturer of the ORP12 states that the resistance will typically vary from 10 Meg ohm in absolute dark conditions to approximately 75 ohm in conditions of extreme brightness. They also state that at no time may one dissipate more than 200mW in the device nor may one operate it with a potential difference greater than 110V across it.

EXPERIMENT

Use the Demo Deck to wire up the simple circuit of Fig. 6. Under normal room lighting conditions the resistance of the cell will be in excess of 500 ohm and this will prevent sufficient current to light the lamp. If you shine a very bright torch at the cell from close range you can make its resistance fall to approximately 75 ohm and the lamp will light up. You will probably be aware that the sensitivity of this circuit is poor because all the control is effected with extreme levels of light. This is because we are requiring the cell to pass quite a high current (60mA) to light the lamp and it is rather difficult to make its resistance fall sufficiently to do this.

Try working out the power dissipation in the photo cell for various light levels and see if we are exceeding the manufacturer's rating. The resistance of the photo cell varies typically from 5 kilohm down to 75 ohm for the range of lighting we are considering. Because the current

Table I: REFERENCE DATA AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ORPI2

..... distanting (ambian

Maximum power dissipation (ambient temp 25 degrees centigrade) Absolute maximum cell voltage Cell resistance at 50 lux Sensitive area	200mW 110V 2·4 kilohm 0·6 cm ²
Typical resistance at 1000 lux with lamp colour temperature 2700 degrees Kelvin Ultimate dark resistance at 110V Nominal rise time of resistance Nominal fall time of resistance	75–300 ohm 10 Megohm 75mS

through the cell will change as its resistance changes we cannot say that the power dissipation will be the same for every condition, in fact it is quite definitely *not* the same.

Try calculating the power dissipation in the photo cell when it has the following resistance values: 5 kilohm, 200 ohm, 100 ohm, 75 ohm and 50 ohm. To help you, assume that the bulb is simply a 100 ohm resistor.

You should find that when the photo cell resistance is 100 ohm the power dissipated is 202mW and at either side of this resistance value the dissipation is less. This is very important to appreciate because it tells us that the power dissipated is a maximum when the resistance of the cell equals the resistance of the load (the bulb). Strictly speaking, we are overstretching the capabilities of the photo cell by about 1 per cent when its resistance is exactly 100 ohm. In practice, however, this condition is unlikely to be maintained for any considerable period of time and besides, the dissipation limitation has a safety factor on its side and a momentary stress in excess of the rating can be permitted.

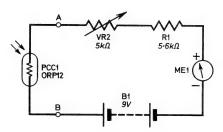
SPECIFICATIONS

Sooner or later one will need to refer to the manufacturer's specifications regarding components. Through this series we shall give you the most important specifications of the components we are using. The ORP12 is quite easily specified—see Table 1.

The parameter "Lux" is a measurement of light intensity; 50 lux is that equivalent to a dimly lit room while 1,000 lux is an exceptionally bright light—the intensity to be obtained a few inches away from a 100 watt bulb. The only parameter which you might not understand at this stage is the rise and fall time. These indicate that it takes a period of time for the cell to respond to changes in light level—the times shown for the ORP12 are quite long by electronic standards and are due to the fact that the reaction within the cell is almost a photochemical effect. Some other types of photoelectric devices can respond to millions of changes of light per second!

EXPOSURE METER EXPERIMENT

We have already said that the light dependent resistor is used in cadmium sulphide exposure



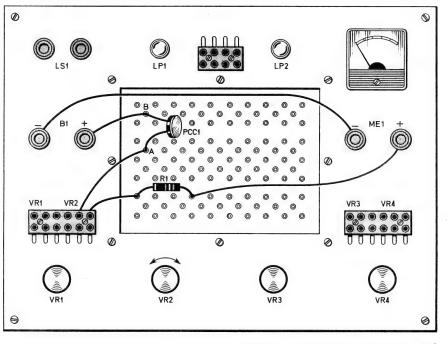
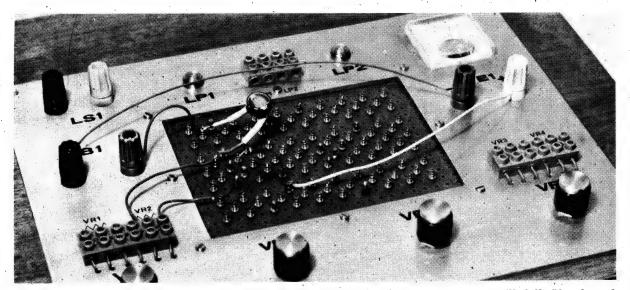


Fig. 8. (above right)
The circuit diagram
for a simple ohm
meter which can be
calibrated for use as
an exposure meter.
(right) This circuit
wired up on the Demo
Deck.



meters so now we will use the Demo Deck to make a simple version of this. Fig. 8 shows the circuit. It is a simple ohm meter where the ORP12 is a resistor whose ohmic value we shall be constantly observing.

It is usual with ohm meters to have zero ohm reading full scale on the meter. We are using a 1 mA (f.s.d.) meter, so must arrange that when we short circuit the input to the meter (across points A and B) exactly 1 mA is permitted to flow. As we are using a 9 volt battery we must incorporate a limiting resistor.

This is calculated using Ohm's Law,

i.e.
$$R = \frac{V}{I} = \frac{9}{0.001}$$
 ohm $= 9$ kilohm

Because the battery voltage will vary a little with time we must make this resistor variable so that we can always set a zero ohm reading of full scale.

We could use a 10 kilohm potentiometer to do this but there is a danger that while adjusting it one might inadvertently reduce the resistance value to zero and pass excessive current through the sensitive meter. To prevent this happening we shall use a fixed resistor of 5.6 kilohm in series with VR2 (5 kilohm) on the Demo Deck. The combined effect of these two resistors will give us a variable range from 5.6 to 10.6kilohm—ample to allow for battery variations but at the same time it will be impossible to pass more than about 2 mA through the meter (this would not cause any serious damage to the meter). With new batteries we should get our full scale zero ohms reading with VR2 set to almost maximum resistance.

METHOD

When set for zero ohm at full scale, disconnect the short circuit between points A and B and allow the ORP12 to come into circuit. We are now introducing extra resistance, thus the current through the meter will fall. If a lot of light is falling on the cell its resistance will be low (say 100 ohm) and this will have very little effect on the total circuit resistance, hence the meter will still read fairly high up the scale. If you prevent light falling on the cell, its resistance increases rapidly and the current displayed on the meter falls dramatically. Different levels of light between these extremes will give graded readings on the meter. For a given film speed one could carry out some trial exposures and experimentally produce a scale (or graph) which will convert the meter current reading into photographic light value numbers.

Next month: Capacitors





THE device to be described will provide an alert when rain or snow is falling or when the atmosphere is saturated as when steam or mist is forming. It can serve as a water level alarm with no modifications to the sensor input and, as it is sufficiently sensitive to detect a human breath at a foot range, it could find use as a novelty item at parties.

Two alarm circuits are offered; an audio tone generator pitched at 2.5kHz and a lamp flasher. While a tone is to be preferred for remote hailing a flashing lamp would be preferable to a person hard of hearing or if the device is used in a party role.

COMPOUND PAIR

The transistors TR1 and TR2 in Fig. 1. are so arranged to very much magnify any small current that might appear at the base/emitter junction of TR1. This compound pair configuration is a cheap way of making up what is, in effect, a very high gain transistor with an amplification factor that approximates to the product of the individual transistor gains.

The small current to be amplified is produced whenever snow, rain or moisture bridges the copper strips of a $0 \cdot 1$ in. matrix veroboard sensor which appears in the input circuit.

These strips are so connected (Fig. 2.) as to make the whole board area moisture sensitive.

The load of the compound pair is the alarm circuit comprising TR3 and TR4. Since the smallest of input currents to TR1 is capable of switching TR2 hard on, this means that nearly

all of the line volts will appear at the junction of the collectors of the compound pair.

AUDIO ALARM

The audio alarm circuit consists of a pnp/npn free running multivibrator designed to produce a penetrating tone without recourse to a transformer.

The Fletcher-Munson curves of equal loudness show that the human ear is most sensitive to sounds between 2kHz and 4kHz. Using the components specified, the alarm will produce a note of approximately 2.5kHz and, although the power output from the alarm is relatively small the note produced is quite piercing.

With moisture completing the input circuit and TR2 switched on, C1 charges by way of R2, R3 and LS1 until the voltage it acquires is sufficient to switch on TR3 which, in turn, switches on TR4. The collector of TR4 is thus taken to a negative potential. The switching process is hastened by feedback through C1 so that TR4 is very rapidly bottomed.

This change cannot immediately be followed



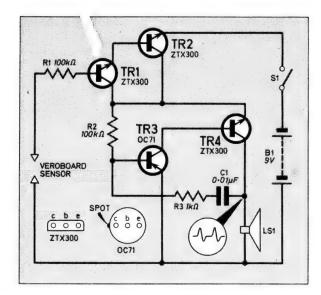


Fig. 1. Circuit diagram of the rain warning alarm.

by C1 which discharges via R3 and TR3 base/ emitter. Having R3 in circuit increases the discharge time constant and therefore, the mean d.c. level to the loudspeaker which, of course, means a greater sound output.

With the discharge of C1 both TR3 and TR4 are cut off and the oscillator recycles. The frequency at which the transistors are turned on and off and therefore the frequency of the tone generated depends on the value of C1 and the resistance of its charge path; an increase in either means a decrease in frequency and viceversa. The output waveform appearing across LS1 is shown in Fig. 1.

If at any time after the unit is built greater sound output is required a 0.47 F capacitor connected across the loudspeaker will prove a simple expedient rather than experimenting with different values for R3. It must be realised that any increase in output will mean a heavier current drain. With the components given, consumption with the oscillator functioning worked out at around 15mA.

LAMP FLASHER

Since this type of multivibrator circuit provides periodic short bursts of power (see output waveform) to a load it is ideal for flashing a lamp.

To change the alarm circuit of Fig. 1, for lamp operation means the change of only three components. A 6V 0.06A lamp replaces LS1, and R2 and C1 are changed to 470 kilohms, and $2 \cdot 2\mu F$ respectively. If an electrolytic is used for C1, the positive side must be connected to the collector of TR4.

For the timing components given above the flash rate is about two flashes every second. Since the flash interval is very brief battery power taken is small compared to the audio alarm.

CONSTRUCTION

The majority of components are mounted on a 2^{1} ₂ inch x 1 inch, 0.15 inch matrix piece of

Components . . .

Resistors

100k Ω (or 500k Ω lin. potentiometer— R1

see text) $100k\Omega$

R2 Shop Talk R3 $1k\Omega$ refers

All ½ watt ±10% carbon

Capacitor

0.01 µF

Transistors

TR1, TR2, TR4 ZTX 300 silicon npn (3 off)

TR3 OC71 germanium pnp

Loudspeaker

 8Ω 2in diameter (or similar small LS1 speaker-see text)

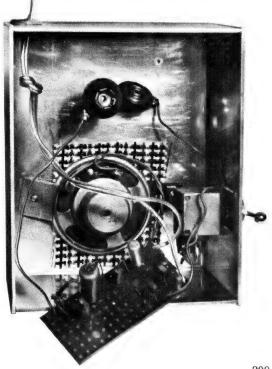
Switch

S1 Single pole on/off toggle

Miscellaneous

B1 PP9 battery, 5in x 4in x 2½in aluminium chassis, Veroboard 16 holes x 7 strips 0.15 matrix (see text), 4in x 3in x 0.1in matrix (for sensor), wire, 4 BA fixings.

Prototype construction of the Rain Warning Alarm.



rain warning

ALARM

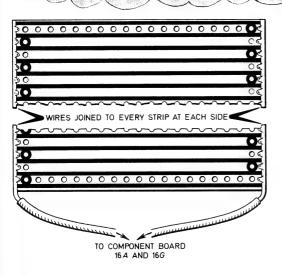
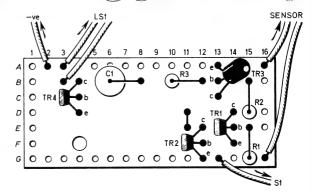
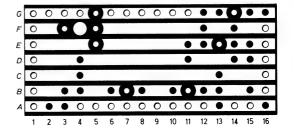


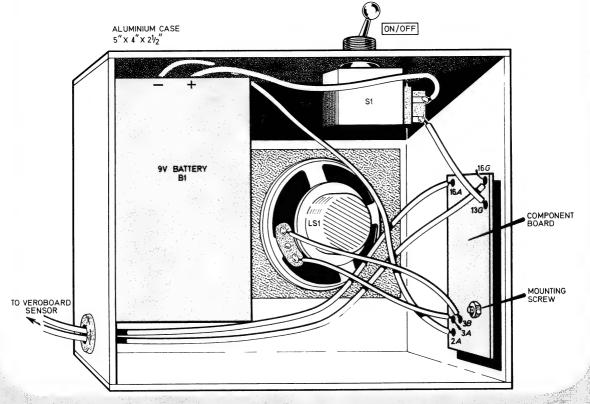
Fig. 2. (above) Wiring of the Veroboard strips to form the sensor.

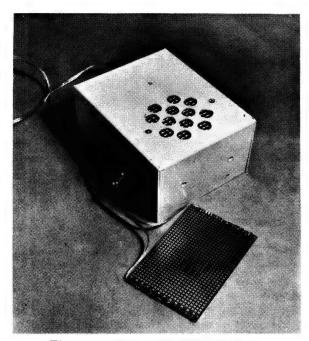
Fig. 3. (right) Layout and wiring of the components mounted on the Veroboard.

Fig. 4. (below) Layout and wiring of all parts mounted in the case.









The completed unit with the sensor

Veroboard (the same size as that given away with the first issue), with the speaker and switch arranged on a small aluminium case.

The circuit performance will not suffer from alternative forms of layout so tag-strip or Cir-kit can be used.

The Veroboard layout and wiring diagram is shown in Fig. 3. The size of the piece of board used could be reduced slightly if a very compact unit is required, however since the battery used should be fairly large for a long life, reduction in size of the Veroboard was not considered advantageous. Construct the board as shown in Fig. 3 taking care when soldering the transistors not to overheat them. This particularly applies to the OC71 which is a germanium device and which should be soldered in, using a heat shunt, after all other components and leads have been attached.

After checking the board for mistakes, mount it in the case and connect up S1, LS1 B1 and the sensor (Fig. 4). Finally check the circuit and the battery polarity and switch on. A quick operational check can be made by touching the copper strips on the sensor with one finger, the unit should immediately give the warning signal. Test the sensitivity of the alarm by blowing on the sensor.

If required a small two-way socket may be included in the lead to the sensor (which is not polarity conscious) so that the sensor could be disconnected from the unit for installation.

When making up the Veroboard sensor simply solder on two lengths of wire at either end of a 4 inch x 3 inch piece of $0 \cdot 1$ inch matrix Vero-

board so that the wire bridges all the copper tracks. Then, with a spot-face cutter or twist drill, make breaks on either side to alternate tracks as in Fig. 2. If high sensitivity is not required the size of the piece of Veroboard used may be reduced. The 0·1 inch matrix board is however most suitable.

If other values of loudspeaker are to hand, such as 3 or 15 ohm types, these can be used but it will mean experimenting with the value of C1 since substitution will produce frequency change.

APPLICATIONS

When siting the sensor the only requirement is that it should be placed on a flat surface. The length of lead to the sensor will not affect circuit performance.

If a 500 kilohm potentiometer is substituted for R1 the input sensitivity can be made variable. Since the base/emitter breakdown voltage of the ZTX 300 is 5V there is no danger of transistor destruction for the condition of maximum sensitivity with little resistance in the input line.

For use as a water level alarm the sensor should be arranged vertically with the lower two tracks at the required height. Obviously, rising water bridging these tracks will trigger the alarm.

As a novelty item the Veroboard could be attached to the top of the aluminium chassis. For this the lamp flasher circuit is used so that anyone breathing or blowing on the sensor literally blows the lamp on.



USING STICK DOWN WIRING

The Waa Waa Pedal featured in this issue utilises stick down wiring; this article describes how to use it.

THE series of photographs below show how to use stick down wiring; photographs (a) to (e) show the Waa Waa Pedal being built.

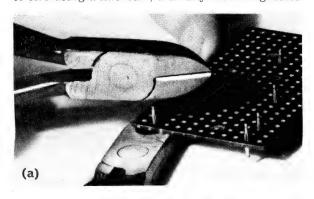
Stick down wiring or Cir-kit, to use its trade name, is available in two sizes \$^1_{16}\$ and \$^1_{8}\$ inch width, and can be used with either plain or perforated, mounting panels. The Waa Waa Pedal unit described in this issue utilises \$^1_{16}\$ inch width Cir-kit with a perforated s.r.b.p. panel. The Cir-kit forms the connections in the same way that the copper on Veroboard or a printed circuit form connections for the components.

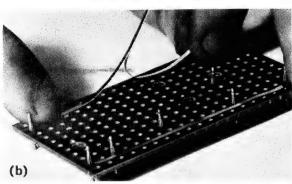
LAYING THE CIRCUIT

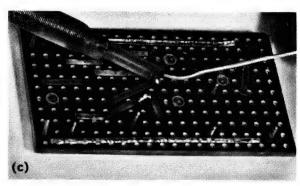
To use stick down wiring first design a component layout or use that provided in the article (Fig. 3 in Waa Waa Pedal), cut the circuit board to size using a hacksaw, drill any mounting holes

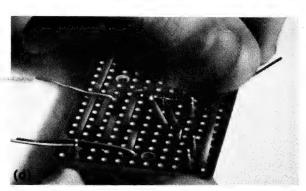
and de-burr the board. The Waa Waa Pedal design utilises Veroboard pins for the connection of flying leads and this practice is to be recommended when using Cir-kit. The pins provide firm anchorage points for the leads and hence no strain is put on the copper strips. The pins should be inserted by supporting the board under the pin and tapping the pin in gently until it is half-way through the board (a). Mark the position of each copper strip on the board using a felt tip pen. Once all the pins have been inserted and checked the Cir-kit can be laid.

Lay the copper strip along the first section marked and cut the strip to the required length for this section. Check the length and position and carefully peel off part of the white backing strip, taking care not to touch the self adhesive back. Position the strip, peel off the remaining









Everyday Electronics, February 1972



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1727	20	coded MCS2	эvр
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BSY26	0 · 13	OC26	0.25
BSY27	0.13	OC28	0 - 30
BSY28	0 - 13	OC35	0 25
BSY29	0 · 13	OC36	0 · 37
BSY95A	0 · 15	AD149	0.30
OC4I	0.13	AUYI0	1 - 25
OC44	0 · 13	25034	0.25
OC45	0 · 13	2N3055	0.63
OC71	0.13		
OC72	0.13	Diodes	
OC81	0.13	AAY42	0.10
OCBID	0.13	OA95	0 - 19
OC83	0 · 20	OA79	0.09
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Retrieval By

Dick Railton

ELECTRONICS today offers reward in so many different areas of our lives that it is difficult to remember clearly those times when it hardly existed at all, and then only in the form of the mysterious "wireless". Perhaps it became my hobby because of the thrill experienced the first time I heard an identifiable voice in a pair of uncomfortable headphones attached to my very own "crystal set".

The greatest single item then in favour of wireless was that a boy, with the aid of normal workshop tools, a lump of the magic crystal, tuning condenser (now called a capacitor) and headphones, could achieve results equal to the best minds of the century—almost

anyway. Thus the sense of power which could grow from this may well be the key, though I think not.

To me, my hobby went hand-inhand with Wells, Huxley and Willy Von Braun, long before Peenmunde, Flash Gordon and the slowly growing ranks of Science Fiction writers. Our faith in journeys through space to conquer the Universe could only be supportive of and by our hobby. It may be easy to say, but hindsight has shown the dreams of youth to be true. After all, it is not a question now of "Is there life elswhere in the Universe?", it is more a case of where and how much.

The war itself gave tremendous impetous to the growing electronics industry and, via the Government surplus stores, the hobby benefited accordingly. Here, in fact, electronics began to emerge as something applicable outside mere wireless. Slowly it produced applications in medi-

cine, industry, the cinema, the theatre and the home. Examples abound.

The most successful valve amplifier ever is undoubtedly the Williamson, designed by the man of the same name—an amateur/ professional. The equipment was largely amateur-proved before commercial adoption. The same can be said of the Dinsdale solidstate equipment and the Lindsay-Hood class A equipment. All these are audio equipments and represent only a tiny part of electronics as a hobby. You can't ask much more of any hobby than that it allows you to be amongst the first to do something and that at the same time you enjoy the doing.

The person coming to electronics for the first time nowadays has far more scope in real terms than was available years ago. Thus it seems difficult to me to see how anyone cannot be interested.

ABBREVIATIONS

The following is a list of abbreviations used in the text of articles and in components lists. Only the direct meaning of the abbreviations is given, no attempt has been made to describe the meaning of the words in full. For further information and full descriptions readers should follow the Teach-In series.

	교통 하다. 그리고 사용 회 회의 교환성은 하늘 일반 양물을 보
a.c.	alternating current
a.f.	audio frequency
a.f.c.	automatic frequency control
a.g.c.	automatic gain control
a.m.	amplitude modulation
BA	British Association (nut and bolt sizes)
cm	centimetre
d.c.	direct current
d.p.d.t.	double-pole double-throw
elect.	electrolytic
e.h.t.	extra high tension
e.m.f.	electromotive force
f.e.t.	field effect transistor
f.s.d.	full scale deflection
f.m.	frequency modulation
ft.	feet
g.	gram
h.t.	high tension
i.c.	integrated circuit
in.	inch
l.d.r.	light dependent resistor
lin.	linear
log.	logarithmic.

l.t.	low tension
m	metre (measurement of length
mm	millimetre
m.w.	medium wave
npn]	transistor structure
pnp ʃ	(two types)
oz	ounces (avoirdupois)
p.i.v.	peak inverse voltage
p.v.c.	polyvinyl chloride
r.f.	radio frequency
r.m.s.	root mean square
s.p.s.t.	single-pole single-throw
s.r.b.p.	synthetic resin bonded paper
s.w.g.	standard wire gauge
t.r.f.	tuned radio frequency
u.h.f.	ultra high frequency
u.j.t.	unijunction transistor
v.h.f.	very high frequency
%	per cent
A	ampere (amp)
dB	decibel
F	Farad
H	Henry
Hz	Hertz (cycles per second)
Ω	ohm
\mathbf{v}	volt
W	watt
р.	pico (= 1,000,000,000,000)
и	micro (÷ 1,000,000)
m	milli (÷ 1,000)
k	kilo (× 1,000)
M	Mega (×1,000,000)
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	



NE or two readers have made enquiries as to substitute components that can be used in our circuits. There are some points concerning substitutes that will probably be useful: first resistors. In general we use ±10 per cent, 14 watt carbon types; ± 10 per cent is now a more common tolerance than ± 20 per cent and this is often the reason for quoting the lower figure. If you wish to use ± 5 per cent (or better) types by all means do so. A similar point can be made with wattages, 14 watt types are common but you can use 12 watt, I watt or even larger types provided they will fit on the component board. Never use a lower wattage type than that specified.

Capacitors

Capacitors are more difficult to lay down rules about, electrolytic types often have tolerances of -10 per cent to +100 per cent or -10 per cent to +50 per cent so you can see that substitution by a similar value to that which we quote should not unduly affect the circuit e.g. for a 25μF capacitor having a -10 per cent to +50 per cent tolerance its value could be anything between $22.5\mu F$ and $37.5\mu F$ so you could probably use values between 20µF and 40 µF without seriously affecting operation of the circuit. Voltage of electrolytics is more important and you should not use types having a lower voltage rating than that given-higher ratings may be used but it is a good idea to stay within four

times the specified voltage e.g. for a 12V electrolytic you could use capacitors having working voltages from 12V to about 50V.

With most other types of capacitor we do not state a tolerance or working voltage and often no specific type. In these cases the general rule is buy the cheapest available and do not worry about working voltage unless we state it. Incidentally condenser is the old term for capacitor—motor mechanics and some "behind the times" firms still use condenser, don't be put off by it.

Auto Alert

The G.P.O. type relays used in the *Auto Alert* may be expensive if new ones are purchased, there are plenty of shops selling second hand ones in good condition for about 50p and this could save as much as £2 when buying both. It is important that each relay only has one set of normally closed contacts, if the one you buy has more, undo the mounting screws and remove the unwanted contacts. You must make sure that the coils on the relays are 2000 ohms, there are other values.

If a dash mounted push button is used remember that it must be a push to changeover and release to restore type; there are various types available from the larger suppliers. The micro-switch used with the footpedal is of a similar operational type—this is standard for most micro-switches so buy a cheap one, the current rating is not important.

Radio Control Monitor

"Powerless", pocketable and very useful, the *Radio Control Monitor* is also easy to build. Variable capacitors may vary slightly (sorry about that) but most types will be satisfactory. Any trouble with the tube can be overcome by a good look at all the catalogues you bought.

It is possible to make up the tube with paper and varnish, wrapped around suitable formers but it may be a bit messy.

Rain Warning Alarm

The loudspeaker used in the Rain Warning Alarm is not critical either in size or impedance. The 8 ohm impedance, 2 inch diameter speaker specified could be slightly increased in size and still fit inside the case described. However,

as stated in the text, any small 3 to 15 ohm speaker could be used if these are more easy to obtain. The power rating of this speaker should be between 50mW and 1W.

As stated in the text the Veroboard sensor should be made from $0 \cdot 1$ inch matrix. If you have some $0 \cdot 15$ inch matrix board to hand, this could be used but the sensitivity of the alarm will suffer.

Waa Waa Pedal

The inductor will probably be the most difficult part to obtain for the Waa Waa Pedal. The Ferrox cube pot core is available from some of the larger suppliers and may also be in local shops. If you buy this you will have to take it apart (quite a simple process) and wind the 500 odd turns on the bobbin inside. Although this takes some time it is a simple process. However, we have seen some inductors of about 10 millihenries (8-12 mH will suffice) advertised in the catalogues. These are wound on ferrox cores similar to that specified and they are probably cheaper than buying the cube and the wire and winding your own.

Meccano parts for the gears and pedal linkage are available from most toy and model shops.

Cir-Kit, the stick down wiring, that is used on the *Waa Waa* component board is available from most of the component shops. The ¹₁₆ inch wide type should be used as this fits between the holes on the perforated board.

New Products

Very little new products information has found its way into the office this month, in fact the only worthwhile new product for amateurs is a 12V 35W soldering iron shown below with its bayonet fitting metal transit cover.



The iron is fitted with 12ft of lead and 25 amp battery clips to enable easy connection to a car battery. Just the job for soldering in the car projects that we give designs for, such as the *Auto Alert* in this issue. The heat shroud enables the iron to be packed away immediately after use. Manufactured by Solderstat Limited the "Motorist Pack" costs £2·87.

28watts, r.m.s. 40Hz to 40kHz ± 3dB



Both units have a jack socket to plug in headphones and there's a separate output for tape recorder. Filters (an unusual feature in this price range) and tone controls give a wide range of bass and treble adjustment which compensate for input deficiencies and domestic acoustic conditions.

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SPEAKERS Duo Type II Size approx $17'' \times 10\frac{3}{4}'' \times 6\frac{3}{4}''$. Drive unit $13'' \times 8''$ with parasitic tweeter. Max. power 10 watts. 3 ohms. Simulated Teak cabinet.

£14 pair + £2 p&p.

Duo Type III Size approx $23\frac{1}{2}$ " x $11\frac{1}{2}$ " x $9\frac{1}{2}$ ". Drive unit $13\frac{1}{2}$ " x $8\frac{1}{4}$ " with H.F. speaker. Max. power 20 watts at 3 ohms. Freq. range 20Hz to 20kHz. Teak veneer cabinet. £32 pair + £3 p&p.

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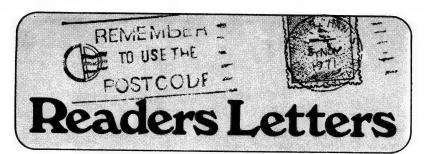
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Projects

Congratulations (if not too late) on your new magazine EVERYDAY ELECTRONICS. I never thought this magazine would interest the "whole family" and now we look forward to the next edition to arrive.

My reason for writing is to ask if you intend to print in future editions any projects like intercoms? My three children are always asking me to install an intercom unit in their three bedrooms. Will this be a future project? If not would you be so kind as to advise me where to obtain the necessary diagrams etc.

Peter Pleydell

I am writing to you on behalf of my colleagues and myself to ask if you have any circuit diagrams concerning high power amplifiers suitable for electric guitars. I would be most grateful if you could send me a circuit diagram for an amplifier of about 100 watts. I have made the Fuzz Box you described in issue 2 of EVERYDAY ELECTRONICS. I found it most enjoyable and interesting to make and results were very pleasing.

I think that many people would enjoy making a treasure locator and I suggest that this would be a very interesting constructional project for a future edition.

Philip Crossland, Derek White Yorkshire.

Coventry.

Unfortunately we cannot supply circuit diagrams or designs other than those published. The 100 watt amplifier is rather too complicated to form an E.E. project. However the other suggestions—the intercom and treasure locator will almost certainly be dealt with in future issues.

Binders

May I make a suggestion? Offer self binders indexed volume by volume attractively produced and gold titled to grace a modern library shelf to hold your issues as they appear and keep them in good clean reference order.

Price today? Haven't a clue; perhaps £1·25 to £1·50 each, the cheaper the selling price that can be maintained, the better.

L. F. Tearry Kent.

We have already thought of making binders available and when we know what they will look like and how much they will cost, we will publish a notice giving full details—so watch the next few issues.

Clear Fuzz

First, congratulations to you and your staff on a first class magazine. I am so pleased with it that I shall soon be placing a subscription order to ensure that I don't miss an issue.

Secondly, with reference to your Fuzz Box project; I am a keen follower of any electronic music developments so I decided to build this project for experimentation purposes. I have never used Veroboard before, but I have managed to get the entire circuit onto the piece provided in the No. 1 edition. An even bigger surprise was the fact that it worked first time. In fact this is the first time this has ever happened to a project I have built.

The unit is now in use by a professional pop group, one of who is a friend of mine, and has proved exceptionally reliable even under overload. As suggested I included the bypass footswitch to switch the effect in and out.

I, however, take none of the credit for this as it is due to you for a well laid out, easy-to-understand way of going about the various projects.

C. A. Bradberry West Dulwich.

Although you are well satisfied with your Fuzz Box some readers have had problems. With the circuit as published there is a danger of damaging transistor TR2. To avoid this a 10 kilohm resistor should be placed between the potentiometer VR1 and the positive line. Also, if a footswitch is fitted, the unit should be made to turn off when the input and output are shorted together.

Reversed Sentinel

May I take this opportunity to tell you that I look like being an ardent fan of EVERYDAY ELECTRONICS, for a long time to come. Having had, for a long time, the urge to "have a go" at something in the electronics field, but always being beaten due to the lack of knowledge on the subject, I was delighted when your magazine came out. It looked at last as if even I was going to be able to tackle something with some hope of success, and after the clear concise way you are presenting the projects, I had every confidence this would be the case.

But alas, no. I have just completed the *Home Sentinel* and let me say right away—but the wrong

way round.

With light falling on the cell face the relay is pulled in, when the light is interrupted, the relay clicks out. Following the instructions in the article, with light on the cell face, I backed off the variable resistor until the relay clicked out, but when the light is cut off to the cell, the relay will not pull in, and no amount of adjustment will make it function as it was intended to. I must say, even in its present state, I am highly delighted to think I have been able to make it, and to have it function at all.

Could you please suggest what could have gone wrong with it. I am afraid that if it will involve the use of test equipment, I will have to be content with it.

A suggestion I would like to make, that I am sure a lot of other readers in the same position as myself will endorse, would be the inclusion in the magazine of a readers "Questions and Answers" section. In this way, someone always asks the question that has been bugging everyone else, and then they all have the answer.

Another suggestion is that once a month is too long to wait for the next issue, please let us have an issue once a week, or at worst, once a fortnight.

If you could spare the time to answer my query, I would be ex-

tremely grateful.

D. Hill Leeds.

The contacts on your relay are obviously normally open types—the use of normally closed contacts would solve the problem. If the relay you have does not have normally closed contacts then reverse the positions of PCC1 and R1 and all will be well.

Once a month may well be too long for some readers but we often find it too short a period in the editorial offices—one reason why some readers are still waiting for replies to their letters.

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+	10%	1Ω-3·9Ω	EI2	1 · 0p	0 · 8p
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4	10%	1Ω-10Ω	E12	6р	5 · 5p
Juantity	price applies for	or any selection Igno	re fractions o	n total ord	er

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AC127	12p	BSY56	30p	OC82	12p	2N3702	15p					
ACI28	12p	BSX21	25p	ORP12	48p	2N3703	I4p					
AD140	40p	BY124	7½p	IN4001	7±p	2N3704	17 ₂ p					
AFI15	20p	BYZ10	20p	IN4002	10p	2N3705	I5p					
AFI17	20p	BYZ13	20p	IN4003	lip	2N3706	I2p					
BC107	10p	OA85	7p	1N4004	12p	2N3707	18 <u></u> 4p					
BC108	10p	OA9I	5p	IN4005	13p	2N3708	10p					
BC109	10p	OA202	7p	IN4006	13p	2N3709	lip					
BFY50	22p	OC71	12p	IN4007	13p	2N3710	12p					
BFY51	22p	OC72	12p	2N2926	Hp	2N3711	14p					

ZENER DIODES	1	LINEAR	IC's (E	D.J.L.)	
ZENER DIODES		709a	50p	741	50p
400mW 5% 3·3V to 30V, 15p.		710a	50p	748	50p

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0·015μF, 0·022μF, 0·033μF, 3p. 0·047μF, 0·068μF, 0·1μF, 4p. 0·15μF, 6p. 0·22μF, 7‡p·
0·33μF, 11p. 0·47μF, 13p.
160V: 0·01μF, 0·015μF, 0·022μF, 0·033μF, 0·047μF, 0·068μF, 3p. 0·1μF 3‡p. 0·15μF,
4‡p. 0·22μF, 5p. 0·33μF, 6p. 0·47μF, 1γp. 0·68μF, 11p. 1·0μF, 13p.
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CARD 1	9G871	15;	2N 3568	25 p	25304	75p	BC126	25p	BFX68	67p	NKT241	87p	CA3013 106p	FJH181 1	85p 8N7450	20p	IT4	25p	80F5	85p	EY51	409
1.00 1.00	2G381	227	2N8570	195p	28502	85p	BC185	18p	BFX85	80p	NKT248	68p	CA3018 84p	FJH281 8	85p BN7458	20p	IU5	60p	80FL12		EY87	100
1	2N404	201	2N 3605	87p	3N83	40p	BC187	15p	BFX87	25p	NKT248	20p	110m	PJH281 9	85p BN7460	20p	3Q4	50p	30L15		EZ41	50p
1	2N697	15p	2N3607	22p	3N140	77p	BC140	88p	BFX89	68p	NKT262	80p	CA3019 849 CA3020 1869	FJJ111	50p BN7478	40p	8V4	48p	30P12	80p	EZ81	200
The color of the	2N699	80p	2N3688A	80p	8N142	55p	BC147	10p	BFY11	48p	NKT271	80p	160p	FJJ121 (80p 8N7475	45p	5U4	85p	30PL1	769	GZ34	40p
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2NN996G 189 2NN090 499 AF179 469 BF177 309 MUS370 809 T1847 189 4006 SUGILY 189 189 279 2079 309 2079 309 2NN996D 189 2NN996 189 2NN	2N2924	15p	2N5028	57p	AF139	28p	BF170	88p	MJ491	187p	TIS45	12p	4005 600PIV	10p	12p 2	6p	20L1 4	1.10	EL41	1·25 60p	UY41	48p
2N3207 L8p 2NN112 L8p AF183 40p BF179 30p MLES1 50p 11849 13p MLES2 70p 71849 13p 7049 13p 7049 13p MLES2 70p 71849 13p 7049 13p 7049 13p MLES2 70p 70410 13p	2N2926G	12p	2N5030	42p	AF179	45p	BF177	80p	MJE370	80p	TI847	12p	4007 1000PIV	12p 15p	16p 2	7 p	20P1 20P3	50p 1	EL42 EL81	65p	UY85 VR105/3	40p 0 38p
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283891 290 285390 8 37p A8V51 32p BF200 35p NKT135 27p ZTX301 25p STX301	2N3390	25p	2N5307	87p	A8Y50	27p 25p	BF197 BF198	15p	N K T 126	27n	ZTX 109 ZTX 300	12p	50 + less	15% 100+	less 20%		AAZ13 AAZ15	10p I	BY100	32b 10b	OA70	10p
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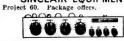
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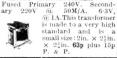
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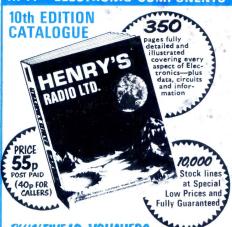
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